



Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 27, 2018

INTRODUCED

SB 313 ■ **COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH** (Schiavoni, J.) To establish the College Application Month program. Am. 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24 and to enact sections 3313.6024 and 3333.301.

SB 314 ■ **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS** (Schiavoni, J.) With regard to mental health services in public and nonpublic schools, to require school districts to employ school psychologists and intervention specialists, to provide an additional state payment to school districts for school psychologist and intervention specialist services, and to make an appropriation. Am. sections 3314.03 and 3326.11 and to enact sections 3301.0730, 3317.26, 3319.077, and 3319.078 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 265.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly and Section 265.210 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, as subsequently amended.

PASSED

HB 18 ■ **SPECIAL ELECTIONS** (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.) to eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances; to authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers, to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices; and to require that, upon request, county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees must share lodging tax return information with the directors of convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.
(32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE))
Gongwer Coverage

HB 87 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of the enrollment records of a community school, to clarify the time period within which a school district emergency levy or substitute levy may be renewed or replaced, to clarify the responsibilities of a school district treasurer regarding the signing or executing of certain documents, to require the State Board of

Education to adopt standards for learning management software for internet- and computer-based community schools, regarding qualification for state payments by internet- or computer-based community schools, regarding joint health and medical insurance programs by political subdivisions and county boards of developmental disabilities, regarding submission of five-year financial forecasts by public schools, and regarding the moratorium on certain provisions affecting community schools and school districts whose enrollments were affected due to enrolling students of a suspended e-school.
32-0 (Schiavoni & Skindell) Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED

Gongwer Coverage

HB 95 ■

DISTRACTED DRIVING (Hughes, J., Seitz, B.) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import.

31-1 (Jordan)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 168 ■

CEMETERY REGISTRATION (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 263 ■

OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 312 ■

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) To regulate the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, to modify the duties and powers of the Auditor of State, to specify that electronic submission of a public record request entitles the requestor to damages if the public office fails to comply with the Public Records Act, to make changes to

the law governing financial planning and supervision commissions, and to authorize a property tax abatement for certain property subject to a submerged land lease and held by a municipal corporation.

32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony))

Gongwer Coverage

HB 336 ■

LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 347 ■

ROAD NAMING (Kelly, B., Dever, J.) To designate multiple memorial highways.

32-0 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 119 ■

OPIOID MEDICATIONS (Hackett, B., Hottinger, J.) Regarding naltrexone and medication-assisted treatment.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 229 ■

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Eklund, J.) To modify the laws pertaining to regulation of controlled substances and to make other changes in the laws administered by the State Board of Pharmacy.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 255 ■

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (McColley, R.) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

24-8 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 273 ■ **RATING AGENCIES** (Hackett, B.) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency."

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 293 ■ **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS** (Peterson, B., McColley, R.) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.

23-9 (Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE)

Gongwer Coverage

SCR 21 ■ **APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB** (Balderson, T.) To urge the Congress of the United States to enact various bills advancing the development of an Appalachian storage hub.

31-1 (Skindell)

Gongwer Coverage

SCR 23 ■ **FEDERALISM** (Obhof, L., Peterson, B.) To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout the Constitution of the United States of America and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment be prohibited or repealed.

25-7

Gongwer Coverage

INFORMALLY PASSED

SB 86 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hackett, B.) To designate multiple memorial highways and bridges, to create multiple nonstandard license plates, to create multiple special designations, and to designate John Glenn's childhood home as a state historic site.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 66 ■ **CRIMINAL LAWS** (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including the promotion of effective rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility

criteria and procedures for granting pre-trial diversion and intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation; to extend the State Highway Patrol's authority to enforce criminal laws to also apply to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center; to modify the penalty for an employer's failure to remit state income taxes withheld from an employee; and to authorize the conveyance of state-owned real estate.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 127 ■ **WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.)** To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 135 ■ **VOTING EQUIPMENT (LaRose, F.)** To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.

31-1 (Jordan)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 216 ■ **SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.)** To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs, to add the territory of Summit County to the Stark State College District, and to prescribe procedures for appointing the board of trustees of the combined technical college district.

28-1 (Brown)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 220 ■ **CYBERSECURITY (Hackett, B., Bacon, K.)** To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program, to allow transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and to alter the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 221 ■

AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof

23-6

Gongwer Coverage

SB 239 ■

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 299 ■

WATER IMPROVEMENTS (Gardner, R., O'Brien, S.) To credit additional amounts of the Local Government Fund to fund public safety services in areas that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of certain power plants between 2016 and 2017, to phase out the payments over ten years, to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund; to support broadband development; to establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project; and to make appropriations, including appropriations for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie and the National Guard Scholarship Program.

29-0

Gongwer Coverage

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

SB 1 ■

DRUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, except for drug possession violations when the fentanyl-related compound is combined with marijuana or a Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance and the offender did not know of the fentanyl content; to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of

permitting drug abuse; and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances.

31-1 (Skindell)

Gongwer Coverage

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Energy & Natural Resources

HB 114 **RENEWABLE ENERGY (Blessing, L.)** To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.
(SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD (See separate story); 8th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 51 **LAKE ERIE (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)** To authorize the creation of a special improvement district to facilitate Lake Erie shoreline improvement.
(REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Before reporting the measure, the committee adopted an amendment from **Sen. Michael Skindell** (D-Lakewood). The senator said his fellow lead cosponsor, **Sen. John Eklund** (R-Chardon), has also signed off on the change, which ensures that if state property lies within the district, the required assessment will not be forced upon the state.

Government Oversight & Reform

HB 18 **SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.)** To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

A substitute version offered by chairman **Sen. Bill Coley** (R-Liberty Twp.) rolls another measure (**SB 252**) into the bill that allows local elected officials to serve on the board of a convention and visitors' bureau.

In written proponent testimony, **Secretary of State Jon Husted** said the original measure will save taxpayer dollars. He noted that a special congressional election in 2016 with just one candidate costed \$340,000.

HB 312 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.)**
Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.
(REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

A substitute version of the bill offered by **Sen. Matt Huffman** (R-Lima) largely cleans up language in the bill and also continues a property tax abatement for the City of Lorain, Sen. Coley explained.

HB 34

PUBLIC NOTICES (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**)

Sen. Huffman offered an amendment accepted without objection to remove some sections pertaining to when electronic notices would not be allowed and to allow a recently elected public official to take public records training prior to taking office.

Another change allows a county prosecutor's office to represent port authorities, planning commissions and regional airport, Sen. Coley explained.

SB 202

OFFENDER RE-ENTRY (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (**CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Proponent**)

SB 255

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (McColley, R.) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**)

A substitute version of the bill offered by Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) makes several changes, including adding factors to the list used in determining whether an occupational licensing board has demonstrated a public need. (**Comp doc**)

It also provides that occupational regulations that are created by adopting national standards used in at least 45 states are deemed to be narrowly tailored and the least restrictive.

In written opponent testimony, Jarrod Clabaugh, executive director of the Ohio Society of Association Executives, called for lawmakers to seek additional input on the bill.

John Graham, president and CEO of the Center for Association Leadership, called for the creation of a task force.

"We suggest that instead the legislature establish a task force to consider the problem of excessive occupational licensing and to develop ways to address that problem without weakening the protections to the public offered by governmental recognition of private certification programs," he wrote.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under June 26

Finance

HB 123 **LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)** To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

HB 347 **ROAD NAMING (Kelly, B., Dever, J.)** To designate a portion of I-71 in Hamilton County as the "Sonny L. Kim Memorial Highway." **(REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

Chairman **Sen. Frank LaRose** (R-Hudson) said the substitute version allows the legislation for to be used as a vehicle for the naming of multiple memorial stretches of highway honoring people killed in the line of duty.

SB 293 **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (Peterson, B., McColley, R.)** To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions. **(REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

The committee accepted a substitute offered by **Sen. Rob McColley**, (R-Napoleon), who said the updated measure would apply the mandate to cut regulations by 30% statewide "at more of a macro level than the micro level."

Sen. McColley said his version would require every head of a cabinet-level department and every statewide elected official to inventory all regulations associated with their departments, as well as the commissions or agencies under them, and apply the 30% reduction "in the aggregate." He said the change was needed because some individual agencies or commissions might not have room to cut the percentage of regulations required by the original legislation.

"There are many state agencies that are already running pretty lean and already have very few rules," he said.

The substitute version also would give the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review the authority to approve or deny the cuts, he said.

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said he agrees with the goal but has concerns the legislature may be ceding too much authority under the proposal.

"We're asking (agencies) to get rid of regulations that are contrary to legislative intent," he said. "I would rather be the one to dictate what legislative intent is."

Sen. McColley said he thinks the substitute bill "actually strengthened the authority of JCARR," and therefore, the legislature.

The panel reported the bill along party lines after accepting the substitute version.

Before accepting Sen. McColley's changes, the committee tabled a substitute bill offered by Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that she said would remove the requirement that

regulations be cut by 30% across the board in the state. Her version instead would have instead required state agencies to cut regulatory restrictions until a reduction "deemed sufficient by the state agency in consultation with (JCARR) has been achieved," she said.

She said the substitute version also would have prohibited agencies from removing regulations required by federal law, among other changes.

"What we're trying to do is enlist both JCARR and the agencies in identifying those regulations or statutes that should be removed ... so that we can make informed decisions," she said.

Ahead of the adoption of the substitute legislation, Greg Lawson, research fellow with the Buckeye Institute, said the state "desperately needs" the effort to cut unneeded regulations to boost the economy. He said the state's licensing requirements are more restrictive than most states.

"Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways," he said. "But the same cannot be said with respect to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers-all currently subject to Ohio's byzantine and overly restrictive licensing requirements."

Mr. Lawson said efforts to rein in regulations could lead to employers hiring more workers and employees earning more.

"Beyond occupational licensing reform, Ohio must also reexamine government mandates that interfere with market-pricing and make goods artificially more expensive for businesses," he said. "Such interference ultimately leads to slower job growth as businesses curtail hiring and wages in order to offset the artificially higher costs created by the mandates."

SB 308 **ELEVATOR LAW (Uecker, J., Yuko, K.)** To revise the Elevator Law.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) said in sponsor testimony the measure, which has companion legislation (HB 236) in the House, would "modernize" the state's elevator laws. "Taking elevators is a regular occurrence in our day to day lives and malfunctions can cause serious injuries to riders. SB308 seeks to codify industry standards and set licensure qualifications to help ensure the safety of both elevator riders and workers," he said. He said the measure would update the state's definition for elevators and create an Elevator Safety Review Board, among other changes.

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.), the measure's other primary sponsor, said the bill also establishes new licensing and insurance requirements for elevator contractors, inspectors and mechanics.

"Our goal is to ensure the safety for the public and for those who work and install elevators. The best way for us to ensure a high level of safety is to ensure that all elevators are installed and maintained by licensed professionals."

HCR 10 **ANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.)** To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. **(REPORTED-AMENDED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

Chairman LaRose amended the bill with language condemning white nationalists and other hate groups.

Sen. Tavares offered a substitute resolution, which would have condemned attacks and discrimination against all minority groups by hate groups including white nationalists and neo-Nazis, and remove references to the boycott movement.

"We can't say people can't talk," she said. "That goes against who we are as a nation and a state."

The panel tabled her proposal, and Sen. Tavares subsequently cast the lone vote against reporting the measure.

Prior to the report, Connie Hammond, a member of United Methodists for Kairos Response and the Free Speech Coalition of Ohio, said the legislation unfairly conflates the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement with anti-Semitism and could be seen as a form of censorship.

"The International BDS movement is not anti-Semitic," she said. "The call to BDS issued by 170 Palestinian civil society organizations asked the international community to stand for freedom, equality and justice."

Sen. LaRose said he rejects the idea that the measure constituted any kind of censorship.

"There's nothing in here that restricts speech," he said.

Education

HB 87 **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. **(REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

SB 34 **ACADEMIC YEAR (Manning, G.)** To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day. **(Scheduled but not heard); 7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 28

Legislative Committees

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-7584), Rm. 313, 9 a.m.

- Behavioral Health Redesign Update from Barbara Sears, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid and Emily Higgins, Chair, OAHP Behavioral Health Subcommittee
 - PBM Report from Barbara Sears, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Joint Ohio College Affordability Committee (Chr. Wilson, S., 466-9739), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.
- Overview of strategies for preserving and improving the affordability of a college education in Ohio by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and the Inter-University Council of Ohio

Joint Education Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, G., 466-8150), North Hearing Rm., 11:30 a.m.

- Presentations by Connie Shriver (Coordinator of Career & Academic Readiness Education at the Mid-East Career and Technology Centers), Mary Murphy (Manager of Adult Success Initiatives at Lorain Community College), and Greg Harp (Vice President of Graduation Alliance) on Adult Graduation Pathways
- Presentations by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services on Early Childhood Programs
- Update on progress of other research projects (tentative)

Agency Calendar

Civil Rights Commission, Lobby Mtg. Rm., 1st Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Business Gateway Steering Committee, 30 East Broad Street, Room 2925, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser, Eaglesticks Golf Club, 2655 Maysville Pike, Zanesville, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 am registration; 10:30 am shotgun start; 4:30 pm barbeque. Brian D. Hill for State Representative)

Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) & Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) fundraiser, Lake Affect Studios, 1615 East 25th St., Cleveland, 5:30 p.m., (\$500, \$150, \$75, \$35 to Friends of Stephanie Howse, Friends of Janine Boyd)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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Volume #87, Report #124 -- Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Lake Erie Voting Machine Funding Among Bills Headed To Governor

A busy day of lawmaking Wednesday saw a wide variety of bills sent to Gov. John Kasich's desk, including long-sought funding for new voting equipment and money to fight harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

In total, the two chambers sent 19 bills to the governor, including a pair dealing with oversight for charter schools. (*See separate story*)

The voting machine measure (SB 135) appropriates \$114.5 million to buy new equipment. The House had previously passed it, and the Senate voted 31-1 in to concur with a House amendment that updated the fiscal year in the language.

"We've had machines that in many cases are 15 years old," sponsor Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said. "Our county boards of elections and folks all throughout Ohio are very excited about the prospect that maybe sometime this winter or next spring there may be a truck showing up with new voting machines."

"It's time that we got this done," Sen. LaRose, the Republican nominee for secretary of state, continued. "This is something we've been talking about for a while."

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent), the Democratic nominee for secretary of state, touted the passage in a statement.

"Ohio has been in desperate need of voting system upgrades to meet the elections cybersecurity challenges we face today and to modernize our aging machinery," she said. "I am happy to see our boards of elections finally getting the resources they deserve after years of state budget cuts to local government funds. I was happy to support this bipartisan bill and will continue to ensure our counties are prepared for every elections challenge."

The Lake Erie measure (SB 299) began as a way to identify and financially support projects to combat harmful algal blooms. Among other provisions, it appropriates \$3.5 million in General Revenue Fund dollars to the Department of Agriculture for soil and water conservation districts and \$20 million to the Soil and Water Phosphorus Program.

The measure became a vehicle for spending-related amendments in the House Finance Committee Tuesday, but it collected only a few changes, making it more of a "modest decorated wreath" than a true "Christmas tree bill," as explained Wednesday by sponsoring Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green).

Those amendments included \$7.1 million in disaster funding for 18 counties that sustained widespread flooding earlier this year. Other House-added items include \$1 million to boost broadband expansion efforts and \$1.5 million for the National Guard Scholarship. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

It cleared the lower chamber in a unanimous vote after picking up an LSC technical amendment on the floor. The Senate then followed suit, approving the item 29-0.

Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton), who sponsored companion legislation in the House, said the measure will go a long way toward reducing algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This particular bill is really something that is extremely critical," he said.

Sen. Gardner called the bill a "classic example" of legislation in action given its bipartisan nature.

Both chambers accepted a conference report on a measure (SB 1) to toughen penalties for fentanyl traffickers.

The House approved the conference committee report 59-10, with Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) calling it a "very small change" in that it shifts the burden of proof to the prosecution to show a defendant knew of a fentanyl-related compound in his or her possession.

In the Senate, the vote was 31-1, with Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) the only member opposed.

Sen. Skindell said the proposal doesn't just target traffickers, but also affects drug users. He also voiced concerns with how the state considers an aggregate amount of fentanyl, even if a little bit of fentanyl is mixed with a much greater amount of another drug.

"It not only throws the drug traffickers in jail, it throws the small users in jail," he said.

Sen. LaRose, the measure's sponsor, said the user would need to have reason to know it contained fentanyl to be charged.

"We did what we could to make sure that we truly are ensnaring the traffickers and not the addicts," he said. "We rely on reasonable prosecutors. We rely on reasonable judges and juries to do the work that they do."

A proposal initially designed to eliminate the need for a special election when only one candidate is on the ballot (HB 18) cleared the Senate unanimously but faced more opposition later in the evening when the House voted 67-22 to concur.

The dissent hinged on a provision added earlier in the day that allows some local elected officials to serve on the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau.
(See committee listing)

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said the measure goes against an advisory opinion issued by the attorney general's office.

"The reason for that conflict is quite obvious," he said.

Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) said if a conflict does exist, the public official can abstain from voting on a matter.

The bill also received opposition from Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) who said in light of recent event, lawmakers should do all they can to avoid any hint of impropriety.

A measure (SB 66) to provide judges with more discretion in criminal sentencing also cleared both chambers.

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville), who ushered the bill through the House Criminal Justice Committee, called the measure a smart on crime bill. He also touted several of the bill's provisions, including one that allows for expanded record sealing.

"This is something that will get people back to work," he said.

Before voting 84-2 to move the bill back to the upper chamber, an amendment offered by Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) was accepted to make it clear that the number of felonies that can be sealed is five with an unlimited number of misdemeanors.

Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) and Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) cast the lone "no" votes.

The Senate voted 29-0 to approve the issue, with Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) and Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) both urging support.

Sen. Eklund specifically pointed out a change that prevents those who have more than five felonies from pursuing the sealing of records. Although it runs somewhat contrary to the Senate's effort, Sen. Eklund said the change such a person would pursue that round "is slim."

"Notwithstanding that, I certainly think the amendments are salutary...and we've come to something that will make Ohio a more just place to live," he said.

Sen. Tavares too said she believes "the integrity and the strength of the legislation remains. We are trying to do what's fair and what's right and we really believe rehabilitation should be taken seriously."

Legislation (HB 318) initially designed to deal with qualification for school resource officers picked up several changes during its journey through the legislature, including having a measure (SB 246) prohibiting expulsion and suspension of young students rolled into it while in the upper chamber.

"Suspending a six-year-old child does absolutely nothing to help them," Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls).

It cleared the lower chamber in a 69-20 vote, with Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) speaking in opposition.

"This did not get vetted in committee the way it properly needed," he said.

A bill to add prongs to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review process cleared the House in a 73-19 vote after Rep. Dan Ramos (R-Lorain) raised concerns that the changes could make the body more partisan.

"It is not a committee where partisanship has come in to play," he said.

Other items sent to the governor included legislation to:

- Allow restaurants to let patrons to have dogs on outdoor patios (HB 263).
- Regulate credit and debit card use by political subdivisions and make other changes to how finances are handled by local governments (HB 312).
- Create a six-month pilot program to reduce driver's license reinstatement fees (HB 336).
- Designate roads after first responders and military personnel killed in the line of duty (HB 347).
- Waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans (SB 81).
- Require drivers to move over when passing waste collection vehicles (SB 127).
- Provide a legal safe harbor for companies that enact cybersecurity protections (SB 220).
- Boost the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review's authority to clamp down on informal rulemaking among executive agencies (SB 221).
- Create more transparency in regional councils of government (SB 239).

- Waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed services and retired and honorably discharged veterans (SB 81).
- Create an enhanced penalty for distracted driving (HB 95).
- Overhaul the law relating to embalmers, crematory operators and cemeteries (HB 168).

Bills On Religion, Pharmacy Benefit Managers Among Dozens Backed By House

Legislation cited as "protecting" the religious beliefs of pastors and students, and a bill to limit charges from pharmacy benefit managers were among the slew of proposals receiving the House's stamp of approval during a marathon session Wednesday.

Also among the 31 measures passed in the first part of the session were a number of Senate bills that now advance to the desk of Gov. John Kasich thanks to Senate concurrence votes later in the day. The chamber also approved a conference committee report on a measure to boost penalties for drug trafficking and possession. (*See separate story*)

Regarding the religion-related legislation, both measures received substantial pushback from Democrats who contend they will open the door for discrimination.

The so-called Pastor Protection Act (HB 36) shields faith leaders, societies and others from civil repercussions should they refuse to solemnize marriage outside their beliefs. The plan picked up a floor amendment from Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) providing that in the event of a conflict between the bill and current public accommodations law, the legislation will take precedent.

Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) made a motion to lay the amendment on the table, which was turned back by Republicans. Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) also moved to amend the item, but her motion was ruled out of order following the adoption of Rep. Seitz's change.

Sponsor Rep. Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) reiterated his belief the legislation does not target LGBTQ citizens. He painted it as an attempt to relieve the "tension" between contrasting beliefs and assure faith leaders existing protections under the Constitution will remain.

"This is not a sword," Rep. Vitale said. "This is intended to be a shield and protect everyone's rights."

But Rep. Boyd argued the legislation's scope is too broad in that it does not limit its provisions to religious groups or pastors.

"It is in essence saying that proprietors of property or services that rent to the public at large can turn away members of the LGBTQ community," she said, before the chamber endorsed the measure 59-29.

Similarly, the chamber voted 62-20 for a plan (HB 428) from Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) and Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) that states students should be permitted to conduct religious expression and activities in schools in the same manner students may conduct secular activity or expression.

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) moved to amend the bill with language he said would label head coverings as permitted religious attire.

Rep. Ginter, however, voiced reservations, saying the change would open up "a pathway that is not the intention of this bill. There is no specificity in this bill toward any religion and that is purposeful." The GOP-dominated chamber as a whole agreed, turning away the proposed tweak 56-32.

Several Democrats spoke against the bill, including Rep. Ramos, who said the legislation is so broad it would permit shirts with messaging stating LGBTQ youth will go to hell or that Jesus is not real, or targeting specific faiths. To that, Rep. Ginter replied the school still has the authority to ban obscene or distracting clothing or activities.

Among other bills, the pharmacy legislation (HB 479) - from Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) - requires patients to be informed of affordable prescription options. And it limits PBMs, health plans or other administrators to charging no more than what an individual would pay for a drug were it purchased without coverage.

"For too long, PBMs have used predatory practices to target consumers and independent pharmacies," Rep. Lipps said. "I am proud Ohio is taking a lead role to end these deceiving practices, while improving transparency and lowering out-of-pocket drug costs."

Added Rep. West: "Today is a happy day here in Ohio because lower prescription drug prices are on their way."

Several pieces of legislation pertained to laws related to sexual activity, including proposals prohibiting sexting by persons under 19 years of age (HB 355) and the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images (HB 497) or "revenge porn." Those measures passed unanimously - 85-0 and 81-0 respectively.

So too did legislation (HB 92) requiring an offender who knowingly commits public indecency to be viewed by a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification to register as a Tier 1 sex offender if ordered by a judge (80-0).

Legislation (HB 511) establishing 18 as the age at which a person can marry was also approved with wide support (78-0). The proposal provides an exception for a 17-year-old

with the consent of a juvenile court if the other spouse-to-be is not more than four years older.

"We do not allow minors to vote, to buy cigarettes or alcohol, to rent cars or apartments or to enter into other contracts yet we allow them to (marry) - one of the most important and impactful decisions of their young lives," said Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), lead cosponsor along with Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake).

Democrats also attempted to amend a plan (HB 502) from Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) that requires educators to take in-service training on youth suicide prevention every two years. Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) sought to expand the bill to cover charter schools but the amendment was tabled 44-39 before the bill advanced 82-0.

The chamber also approved legislation:

- Granting civil immunity to medical providers and emergency medical technicians operating after a disaster (HB 7).
- Prohibiting certain terms from appearing in health care contracts between vision care providers and a contracting entity and establishing new disclosure requirements (HB 156).
- Establishing a regional kinship care navigator program (HB 126).
- Licensing home inspectors via the proposed Home Inspector Board (HB 211).
- Designating the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and requiring higher education institutions to adopt a policy regarding dating and domestic violence (HB 240). The chamber approved an emergency clause 75-6.
- Including search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal (HB 349).
- Prohibiting consumer credit reporting agencies from charging a fee to freeze a consumer's credit report or to remove or temporarily lift a freeze (HB 386).
- Exempting police body camera and dashboard footage from public record laws under certain circumstances, such as if it depicts the identity of a child or the victim of a sex crime (HB 425).
- Authorizing a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributing capital for transformational mixed use development construction (HB 469).
- Requiring the Department of Agriculture to regulate multi-parcel auctions (HB 480).

- Enacting a myriad of township changes including: increasing the obligations a board of township trustees may authorize its officers to incur, permitting a township to require reimbursement of emergency services levy revenue foregone because of the creation of a tax increment financing incentive district, and more (HB 500).
- Requiring the development and adoption of a new framework for teacher and administrator evaluations (HB 540).
- Permitting county prosecutors to enter into contract with regional airport authorities, port authorities or a regional planning commission as a legal adviser (HB 543).
- Requiring the Public Employees Retirement System Board to grant a full year of service credit to qualified members employed as nonteaching school employees of a county board of development disabilities (HB 572).
- Revising the probate process through various changes including disqualifying a person convicted of involuntary manslaughter from benefiting from the victim's death (HB 595).

Senate Passes Measures Focused On Reducing Regulations

A pair of legislative efforts to rein in regulations cleared the Senate Wednesday, with Republicans saying the proposals would make life easier for businesses.

Democrats said the two measures were arbitrary efforts to reduce agency rules that don't get at the issue of targeting unneeded regulations and could reduce important oversight.

One of the items (SB 293) cleared the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee earlier Wednesday after the panel replaced it with a substitute version to apply the regulation-cutting mandate more broadly across state departments, rather than to individual agencies. (*See committee listing*)

As a result of the changes, the legislation would require departments overall to cut regulations by 30%, sponsor Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) said. It would also create a website where individuals and businesses can report burdensome regulations to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

"We need to know how many restrictions we have, we need to systematically review them, and we need to revisit the rules that are unnecessary," Sen. Peterson said.

Majority Republicans tabled an amendment from Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that would have eliminated the 30% reduction requirement.

"This amendment calls for them to reduce restrictions without placing the arbitrary requirement," she said. "This amendment calls on state agencies to inventory what regulations exist."

Sen. Peterson said the amendment was unnecessary because JCARR can already grant departments exemptions for certain rules.

Lawmakers can also work to reduce regulations by avoiding situations where legislation leaves the details to be sorted out by agencies, said Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati).

"The real issue here is how many things do we and our predecessors punt on and let it go to an agency rather than making a decision," he said.

Sometimes that's appropriate, said Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon).

"Sometimes it's an acknowledgement or a willingness to acknowledge that there are experts in the administration of the government" with more expertise than lawmakers, he said.

The measure passed along party lines.

The other effort targeting regulations (SB 255) focused on occupational licensing. Sponsor Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) said it would create a process to review the state's occupational licensing requirements every five years.

"Frankly it's costing Ohioans the ability to earn a living and it's costing Ohioans the opportunity to contribute to our economy," he said of excessive licensing requirements.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said lawmakers should consider issues with occupational licenses and fix them rather than creating a complicated process to routinely review the need for them.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said he thought the government has gotten "too big, too unwieldy."

"Too much of our authority has been usurped or given away over the years by legislators who thought it was easier to punt rulemaking authority," he said.

The measure passed 24-8.

The chamber unanimously passed a measure (SB 119), known as Daniel's Law, intended to ensure patients using naltrexone, a medication-assisted treatment also known as Vivitrol, can get an emergency dose from a pharmacy in certain emergency situations.

"When in a pinch, patients will have access to every pharmacy in the state of Ohio to act as a trampoline back into the system when the system fails," sponsor Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) said.

Also advancing in the chamber were measures to:

- Provide a definition for an insurance rating agency (SB 273).
- Modify controlled substances laws with the Board of Pharmacy, including placing the list of controlled substances in rule rather than statute (SB 229).
- Urge Congress to support the creation of the Appalachian storage hub (SCR 21).
- Call on Congress to end certain mandates and emphasize the importance of federalism and the 10th Amendment (SCR 23), which passed 25-7.

Bills Amended To Enhance Online School Oversight Head To Governor

The House and Senate on Wednesday approved separate measures that were amended this week to include multiple e-school reforms and sent them to Gov. John Kasich for his signature.

While Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) introduced legislation (HB 707) on the topic last week, lawmakers quickly sought alternative pathways to get some of its provisions passed sooner rather than later. The actions by the chambers achieve a goal set Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) of pushing forward with legislation aimed at improving the state's online schools ahead of summer recess. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 25, 2018)

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee said lawmakers from both chambers came to an agreement ahead of Wednesday's session that certain portions from the measure would be split among a bill (HB 87) under consideration in the Senate and another (SB 216) under consideration in the House.

"You really have to look at these two bills together," she said.

The original intent of HB 87 was to clarify that funding must be returned to local school districts when an audit of a charter school leads to a finding for recovery, while SB216 is an overhaul measure that makes dozens of changes to the state's K-12 education system.

The upper chamber passed HB 87 by a vote of 30-2 with Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) voting in opposition. The House concurred in Senate amendments by a vote of 70-22.

The Senate Education Committee earlier in the day amended HB 87 to create a "safe harbor" for schools that grew by 20% from taking in former Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow students from certain accountability measures, including closure. The House Education & Career Readiness Committee on Tuesday accepted a similar amendment to SB 216 that set the threshold at for the threshold for the safe harbor at 10%. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

Sen. Schiavoni said he cast his vote against the measure because the safe harbor provision could shield poorly performing schools from accountability.

"My concern is that by putting an amendment like this in the bill we might be creating another ECOT," he said.

Sen. Lehner said another amendment passed in the Senate committee clarifies that the safe harbor will not protect schools that would have faced closure before considering the performance of students taken in from the now-shuttered e-school.

"We are not excusing bad performance of any school," she said.

Sen. Lehner said another Senate amendment to HB 87 dealing with e-schools would require the superintendent of public instruction to set guidelines for activity-tracking software to be used by online charter schools.

Another amendment "would remove a significant conflict of interest" regarding the state auditor's office and payments by online schools, she said.

"Currently, amounts payable may be reduced according to policies determined both by the superintendent of public instruction and the auditor of state," she said. "This amendment will change the statute to require the (superintendent) to establish these policies in consultation with the (auditor) instead, so that the auditor is not put in a position to establish policies they may later audit."

Sen. Lehner said other amendments adopted by her committee that are not focused on e-schools would:

- Give school districts an additional year to put a substitute levy on the ballot.
- Clarify that only a superintendent or school board president can sign contracts and other employment documents related to the district's treasurer or his or her family members.
- Allow school districts and other public employers to "collectively contract for health clinic services."

The committee also adopted an amendment Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) said would prohibit the state from requiring local school boards to submit five-year

financial forecast before Nov. 30. The provision mirrors one added to SB 216 in committee Tuesday.

The House passed SB 216 by a vote of 60-32 after accepting two amendments. The Senate concurred in House amendments by a vote of 28-1 with Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) in opposition.

Rep. Andy Brenner's (R-Powell) amendment required a study of school takeovers be sent to the Joint Education Oversight Committee for further review after its completion. The House accepted the amendment by a vote of 62-28.

A floor amendment offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and accepted by a vote of 61-28 stripped a provision from the law that would have revised the state's standard for what an "excessively absent" student is by excluding excused absences. Under existing law, a student is "excessively absent" when they miss 38 or more hours in a month or 65 or more hours in a year whether the absences were excused or not.

The House Education & Career Readiness Committee on Tuesday reported SB 216 along party lines after accepting several amendments, including one with multiple provisions aimed at e-school reform. The amendment was inspired by HB 707, which in turn took cues from recommendations offered by Auditor Dave Yost.

The amendment would require the superintendent of public instruction to craft recommended definitions for the state to adopt regarding e-school enrollment and participation and create a committee to study the potential of student performance, among other provisions.

Sen. Lehner said she views the creation of the committee as one of the most important provisions in the two pieces of legislation.

"The study committee is the most important part of that because that's going to (lead to) more substantive long-term reforms than some of the more minor (provisions)," she said.

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) said the online school provisions the committee added to SB 216 need more vetting, but were being rushed into law to provide "political cover" for Republicans in the wake of the closure of the ECOT. After ECOT shut its doors in January, Auditor Yost referred his office's audit of the school for potential prosecution. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 10, 2018)

"I'm sorry to say this bill has been hijacked," she said.

She was gavelled out of order by Speaker Smith when she likened ECOT's funding, which is the subject of clawback efforts by the state, to an ATM for Republican campaign committees.

The panel and later the full Senate rejected an amendment offered by Sen. Schiavoni that would have set additional guidelines for e-schools. He said the change would have

required an in-person parent teacher conference to be scheduled if a student doesn't log in for 10 days and the addition of disclaimers on e-school advertisements noting if they were paid for with public money and what grades the school had received from the state, among other changes.

"We have to have additional accountability and transparency," he said.

Sen. Lehner opposed the amendment but said she agreed with Sen. Schiavoni that the state's work on updating standards for online schools is not done.

The Senate also tabled an amendment offered by Sen. Schiavoni that would have extended eased graduation requirements put in place for the class of 2018 for the next two school years. The House Education & Career Readiness Committee rejected an amendment with the same effect offered by Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) Tuesday.

Before passing SB 216, the House tabled an amendment offered by Rep. Galonski that would have appointed a special investigator in the ECOT case.

Rep. Brenner said he viewed the amendment as premature because ECOT still has an appeal before the Ohio Supreme Court related to purported overpayments the State Board of Education voted to claw back from the school, leading to its closure.

Democrats later ripped majority Republicans for refusing to add additional accountability provisions to the bill, saying it gives a "free pass to Ohio's out-of-control charter schools" and elected officials.

"This is a politically motivated bill to give the same GOP politicians who used ECOT and charter school sponsors to bankroll their campaigns a free pass on taking responsibility for the mess they created," Rep. Galonski said.

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), SB 216's primary sponsor, said crafting and passing the substantial bill involved a lot of give and take among lawmakers and interested parties.

He listed the House's changes, saying he did not agree with all of them but that the bill retains the goal that superintendents had when they suggested the package to him several months ago - that is, eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

"This is a product of about 15 months-worth of work with a lot of good things in it," he said.

State Auditor Dave Yost issued a statement Wednesday evening welcoming passage of the measures.

"The legislation approved by the General Assembly today addresses some of the weaknesses my office has pointed out for years that limited the state's ability to demand full accountability from online schools and operators," he said. "While we were not

successful in gaining passage of all reforms we believe are needed, these changes will make a significant difference."

Senate Panel Delays Vote On Energy Standards, Wind Setback Bill

A Senate committee Wednesday held off on a potential vote on controversial legislation to lower the renewable and energy efficiency standards, with lead negotiators telling interested parties they are "very close" to a final product.

The closely-watched measure (HB 114) was scheduled for its eighth hearing before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources and marked for possible amendments and a vote.

But the proposal was ultimately not heard, with Chairman Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) and Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) instead briefing stakeholders in attendance of their progress on the bill and promising "the bill's not dead."

"It's closer (to passing) than it's been for a while," Chairman Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) said in an interview.

The measure began as a House effort to render the standards voluntary and expand the mercantile opt-out. That followed Gov. John Kasich's 2016 veto of a similar, but less far-reaching measure (HB554, 131st General Assembly).

Senators in May then accepted a substitute version that restored the mandatory nature of the standards, although it still lowers the renewable standards to 8.5% by 2022 instead of current law's 12.5% by 2026 and the efficiency standards to 17.2% by 2026 instead of the current 22.2% by 2027. It also loosens wind setback restrictions that advocates accused of stifling the industry - a prospect House leaders have expressed reluctant to accept in the past. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2018)

More changes are likely, as the lawmakers court support within their caucus and among stakeholders. Sen. Beagle said they're still sorting through feedback following the most recent changes - including those related to the mercantile opt-out, the wind setbacks and energy efficiency benchmarks.

"At this point, anytime you amend something everything's kind of tight so if we move a little bit here we need to understand what the ramifications are over there and that's just taking time," Sen. Beagle said. "We want to make sure we get this right. It's been an issue we've been talking about for a long time and it's been in the chamber a while. We'd rather take some time to make sure we get the best bill we can before we send it over to the House."

Sen. Balderson said talks continue with the Kasich administration over the renewable standards proposed by the current bill.

"The administration is aware of our number," he said. "While they are not satisfied with it, we continue to have positive discussions on a number of other areas we can all agree upon."

A Kasich spokesman declined to comment on the pending legislation.

At the same time, both said they haven't gone out of their way to keep their House counterparts in the loop on discussions. Although the legislation in its current form is likely to face a steeper climb in the lower chamber, the senators said their principal concern is mustering up enough support within their own caucus.

"We're really kind of focused on making sure we have enough votes in the Senate," Sen. Beagle said. "We're really focused on getting a product we can get out hopefully on a bipartisan basis and that's tough enough."

Added Sen. Balderson: "Once we have our numbers here that we need in the Senate, then we'll focus on the House. They're aware...so there's no reason for (Sen. Beagle) and I to be sitting down in front of them."

Proposed Regulations Inspired By State Fair Ride Death Get Initial Hearing

Nearly a year removed from a thrill ride breakdown at the Ohio State Fair that killed 18-year-old Tyler Jarrell and injured several others, the House took up legislation to tighten regulation of inspections overseen by the Department of Agriculture.

Sponsored by Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) and Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus), the measure would revise current safety inspection standards, define the qualifications for inspectors, and require owners to maintain current records for all their amusement rides.

Rep. Patterson told members of the House Agriculture & Rural Development Committee that the measure, while inspired by the tragedy, is about looking ahead "to better ensure the safety of Ohioans for years to come by revisiting current legislation to provide a more robust approach to ride safety and inspection."

The sponsors pointed out that while the rides have become more prevalent, diverse and complicated over the years, the number of Ohio inspectors has remained fairly constant.

Rep. Hughes said the bill focuses on ride inspections in two ways.

"First, it expands the Director of Agriculture's rule-making authority regarding amusement ride safety. Specifically, it requires a minimum number of inspectors be assigned to inspect a ride, ensuring that number is reasonable and adequate given the size, complexity, and nature of the ride," he said. "Second, it requires the Director to adopt the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials, or any other equivalent standards, in whole. Current law does not require the Director to adopt these standards, neither in whole or part."

The measure also addresses the qualifications for newly hired inspectors, Rep. Hughes said. "The bill requires the Director, when employing a new Chief Inspector or an additional amusement ride inspector, to give preference to individuals who are registered professional engineers. If no registered professional engineer seeks employment as an inspector, the Director must give preference to individuals who have been issued a level one or higher inspector certification from the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials."

Those restrictions would be forward-looking and not impact those currently employed as inspectors, he said.

The bill would retain the current law requirement that the ODA director provide necessary training for inspectors to administer and enforce the laws governing amusement ride safety. "Similarly, the bill still allows the director to appoint or contract other persons to perform inspections of amusement rides, provided that they meet the qualifications for inspectors and are not owners, or employees of any amusement ride subject to inspection," Rep. Hughes said.

The record-keeping mandates in the bill would apply to electronic manuals for each amusement ride that is inspected in Ohio, if available, and the ODA director may require the owner to also include "detailed written descriptions or photographs of all maintenance, repairs, and inspections in the record," Mr. Hughes said.

"Finally, HB631 prohibits ride owners from knowingly failing to keep a record or knowingly failing to make records available to the Department or ride inspector, and it imposes a fine of \$100 to \$500 for a violation of the prohibition. While current law requires an owner to keep records and make them available for inspection, it does not establish a specific penalty for failure to do so," he concluded.

Asked about the extent of the potential fines, Rep. Patterson said they could apply to every ride that's out of compliance or it could depend on the circumstances. He said the sponsors wanted to leave some discretion for ODA to develop more specific guidelines under the bill.

"We don't want the money," Rep. Hughes added. "We want them to be safe."

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) questioned whether the provisions would have prevented last year's failure of the Fire Ball ride.

"It definitely would have helped the situation, but what we're trying to do is prevent another occurrence of this in the future," Mr. Patterson said.

The sponsor told Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon) that the requirements would apply to all rides operated in the state, including those at county fairs and other events.

Chairman Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) raised the issue of funding for additional inspection duties and also noted that a review of the incident did not result in any punitive actions against state inspectors.

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) said consideration must be given to ODA's budget if the bill is enacted.

Mr. Hughes said there have been communications with the agency regarding the proposals and further meetings with the agency are planned.

ODA spokesman Mark Bruce said the agency typically doesn't comment on pending legislation.

"The department has had discussions about possible ways to strengthen Ohio's already robust amusement ride safety program," he said in an email.

High Court Strikes Down 'Agency Fees' For Public Sector Unions; Kennedy Announces Retirement

Organized labor was dealt a major blow Wednesday by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a highly anticipated decision, the court in a 5-4 ruling held that non-union workers cannot be forced to pay fees to public sector unions.

Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito found the requirement that non-union employees pay "agency fees" to the collective bargaining unit runs afoul of free speech protections.

"This procedure violates the First Amendment and cannot continue," Justice Alito wrote. "Neither an agency fee nor any other payment to the union may be deducted from a nonmember's wages, nor may any other attempt be made to collect such a payment, unless the employee affirmatively consents to pay. By agreeing to pay, nonmembers are waiving their First Amendment rights, and such a waiver cannot be presumed."

He was joined in his opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Neil Gorsuch and Justice Anthony Kennedy, considered the swing vote on the court and who announced his retirement Wednesday.

The decision overturns a 1977 high court ruling that upheld the practice as constitutional.

"We recognize that the loss of payments from nonmembers may cause unions to experience unpleasant transition costs in the short term, and may require unions to make adjustments in order to attract and retain members. But we must weigh these disadvantages against the considerable windfall that unions have received under *Abood* for the past 41 years," Justice Alito wrote.

"It is hard to estimate how many billions of dollars have been taken from nonmembers and transferred to public-sector unions in violation of the First Amendment. Those unconstitutional exactions cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely."

Statements for and against the decision poured in swiftly.

Ohio Republicans were largely silent on the ruling. However, the Buckeye Institute cheered the decision.

"The Supreme Court today in *Janus v. AFSCME* announced its basic rule of human decency and common sense: consent matters - and hardworking public-sector workers can no longer be forced to pay for political speech or other activities without their affirmative consent," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

The American Legislative Exchange Council also hailed the ruling.

"Today's Janus decision overturns a precedent set 41 years ago. This will allow workers to keep their pay, they will no longer be forced to pay fees that support a union's collective bargaining efforts and administrative work," said Robert Ordway, Director of the Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force at ALEC.

The court's liberal justices dissented in the decision, with Justice Elena Kagan writing that the majority's holding will lead to "a collective action problem of nightmarish proportions."

Among the repercussions of the decision, she predicted that it will lead to a decline in public sector unionization.

"Everyone - not just those who oppose the union, but also those who back it - has an economic incentive to withhold dues; only altruism or loyalty - as against financial self-interest - can explain why an employee would pay the union for its services," she wrote in a dissent joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice Stephen Breyer and Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

She also accused the majority of "weaponizing the First Amendment, in a way that unleashes judges, now and in the future, to intervene in economic and regulatory policy."

Several Democratic lawmakers blasted the decision in statements, as did unions. Jay McDonald, president of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, said the group is "confident that our membership understands the value of belonging to the FOP and we will continue to work hard to keep their trust."

Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga said "billionaires and corporate special interests that have manipulated our system of justice have succeeded in getting the highest court in the land to do their bidding."

The Ohio Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Education Association also spoke out. OFT President Melissa Cropper said the decision will lead to greater activism among her members.

"This decision today is a momentary triumph for the wealthy special interests who backed this lawsuit," she said. "But the voices of working people will not go unheard. And unions, such as ours, remain the best way to make sure decision-makers - at work or in the halls of government - are listening."

The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association said the decision "will only further rig the economy in favor of the wealthy and corporate interests."

OAPSE Executive Director Joe Rugola called the decision political.

"Justice Alito even says in his opinion that unions are powerful and get things done for our members," he said. "That's what the anti-union forces are afraid of: that our collective voice on behalf of workers will mean better pay and benefits for working people."

Kennedy Retirement: Justice Kennedy announced his retirement Wednesday, paving the way for Republicans to move the court in a decidedly rightward direction, a fact that was not overlooked by many, including Ohio Right to Life, which predicted the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

"Moments like these are why pro-life Americans elected President Donald Trump," President Mike Gonidakis said. "He has the historic opportunity to add a justice who will serve as the fifth pro-life vote on the court. Ohio Right to Life's goal has always been to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and to see the end of abortion, which has killed 60 million American children in the last 45 years."

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Executive Director Kellie Copeland expressed concern that the next right-leaning appointee would be in a position to overturn the "constitutional right to access abortion."

"Americans have had their rights stripped away by the US Supreme Court, thanks in part to a stolen seat that should have been filled by President Barack Obama," she said. "Women, union members, and immigrants all were harmed by decisions handed down just this week. We need a court that protects and respects rights, not one that pushes the political agenda of Donald Trump, Mike Pence and their ultra conservative cronies."

U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Marietta) encouraged his upper chamber colleagues to act quickly on filling the court opening.

"I encourage President Trump to nominate a qualified jurist from the list of potential Supreme Court judges he unveiled during his presidential campaign - someone who will interpret the Constitution as written, rather than legislating from the bench," he said.

"Whoever ends up filling this vacancy will play a major role in the future of the high court."

Justice Kennedy plans to step down at the end of July, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he plans to hold a vote on a replacement this fall.

The White House in a statement provided no timeline on choosing the justice's successor and instead focused on his service.

"A Californian - like the president who appointed him - Justice Kennedy is a true man of letters," the statement read. "During his tenure on the court, he authored landmark opinions in every significant area of constitutional law, most notably on equal protection under the law, the separation of powers, and the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech and religion."

Chairman: Senate Looking For Balance With Payday Lending Measure

Two weeks in the Senate wasn't enough time to resolve the complex issues surrounding payday lending law revisions, and interested parties will keep talking on a compromise, a key lawmaker guiding the process said Wednesday.

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) made the comments following a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee, which he chairs. The panel heard some additional testimony before a surprise attempt by the ranking minority member to move it forward.

The chairman previous said he didn't intend to take any amendments or call a vote on the proposal (HB 123) this week, but Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) made a motion to report the measure before the meeting could be adjourned.

After committee members were called back from other meetings, majority Republicans voted on party lines to table Sen. Skindell's motion.

Sen. Oelslager said he and many members of the committee are still unsure what direction they would like to see the bill go, whether that entails the way it's written, or with some or all of the recommendations made by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

"We also want to make sure that the interested parties have a chance to keep talking," he said after the meeting. "It's a very complicated issue. We want to make sure there's a balance between the person offering the loan and the person taking out the loan."

Sen. Skindell's move came after Nick Bourke, director of consumer finance for the Pew Charitable Trusts, asked senators to advance the proposal as written.

"I urge this committee to take a vote," he said. "Vote on HB123 as passed by the House. Or make a few sensible amendments to HB123 as we've discussed and vote on that. Even if it fails, we will know where this process stands."

Mr. Bourke, who has testified several times on the measure, told the committee they have three options in front of them: an overhaul of regulations such as HB123, the complete elimination of high-interest lending, and the status quo.

The proposals from Sen. Huffman, he said, would preserve the status quo.

"It is not reform because it does not solve the problems for consumers and it would cost the small number of payday lenders who enjoy the status quo today virtually nothing," he said.

Sen. Oelslager asked if the proposal is worse than the current law for lenders, and Mr. Bourke said it would have no change.

Mr. Bourke also said lawmakers could propose to ban high-interest loans entirely.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said the 2008 regulation constituted an attempt to ban high-interest loans.

"Ten years ago, when the legislature and then the voters of Ohio dealt with the legislation, that was a ban bill in the state of Ohio," he said. "Is the House-passed version of HB123 a ban bill?"

Mr. Bourke said it's a reform effort and would still allow companies to operate.

"I've spoken with companies that used to operate in Ohio before 2008 that left Ohio because they did not want to operate in a loophole," he said.

The panel also heard from Ashish Gandhi, owner of Cash Plus Silverton, who praised Sen. Huffman's plan.

"I believe that Senator Huffman's plan was very well thought out and mathematically intelligent," he wrote. "He was magically able to give all sides what they were asking for. His plan lowers the APR that critics insisted on. His plan lowers the daily cost of a loan to less than a cheap cup of coffee at a gas station. His plan allows for a plethora of options for both consumers and businesses."

The original version of the legislation is "extreme, poorly written and not workable," he said.

Sen. Huffman's plan is not exactly what the industry would have wanted, but would allow businesses to stay in place, he said.

Prosecutors Praise Beefed Up Parole Monitoring Bill

A bill to revise parole monitoring procedures has the potential to save lives, members of a Senate panel were told Wednesday.

The legislation (SB 202) is named after Reagan Tokes, who was murdered by Brian Golsby shortly after his release from prison.

Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, said the legislation "will fill the gaps in the way the state manages offenders who are released from prison."

Among the bill's provisions, it would create reentry programs to ensure that those released from prison are not homeless and require restrictions to be placed on those who are on post-release control and fitted with GPS monitoring devices.

It would also require the state to create a database of GPS data that would be available to law enforcement officials when investigating crimes. Another portion of the legislation would focus on ensuring parole officer caseloads are not too large.

"Brian Golsby was released into homelessness and with a GPS monitor that did not establish zones within which he was allowed to move," Mr. Tobin told members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee. "It was subsequently discovered he committed at least six violent robberies, prior to his encounter with Reagan, all while being 'monitored.' The state must do more to address the circumstances that led to this."

William Parker of the American Court & Drug Testing Services said GPS monitors are essentially useless without guidelines and restrictions.

"GPS technology can do much, much more than simply provide the current location of someone wearing the ankle bracelet. Using easily programmable curfews, inclusion and exclusion zones and daily schedules, the technology can alert us immediately if the defendant is not where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there," he said.

"The technology can alert us immediately if the defendant moves into a neighborhood where his or her presence represents a threat to a person or community. It can notify us immediately if the defendant removes the bracelet or fails to charge the bracelet. But, the effective use of this technology requires more than satellites, cellular signals and computer applications."

Phyllis Carlson-Riehm of the ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women also provided written testimony in support of the measure.

"We all know that Ohio's prisons are full to overflowing and the costs are enormous," she wrote. "We all know that prison reforms are long overdue to reduce the number of non-violent inmates and move them into meaningful community corrections programs and rehabilitated lives.

"But at the same time we must not fail to strengthen Ohio laws to hold violent repeat felons responsible for the multiple crimes that they commit and stop the needless human tragedies that are happening to many Ohio families."

Companion legislation (HB 365) - that also deals with indeterminate sentencing - cleared the House earlier this month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 20, 2018)

Senate Releases Session Calendar

The Senate could hold full sessions as many as 14 days during the second half of the year, according to a schedule released by Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) on Wednesday.

The calendar sets if-needed sessions for July 10 and August 22. Three potential session dates are set for September.

Nine possible dates are scheduled for November and December, which would represent the chamber's post-election session.

The House has yet to release its schedule for July through December.

All session dates are available in Gongwer's full legislative schedule, where the meetings can be synced with Outlook calendars.

Governor's Appointments

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council: Kimberly S. Monachino of Twinsburg for a term beginning June 27, 2018, and ending June 1, 2019 and Margie Hegg of Upper Arlington for a term beginning June 27, 2018, and ending June 1, 2020.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, June 28

Business Gateway Steering Committee, 30 East Broad Street, Room 2925, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Friday, August 3

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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House Activity for Wednesday, June 27, 2018

PASSED

SB 66

CRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including the promotion of effective rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting pre-trial diversion and intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation; to extend the State Highway Patrol's authority to enforce criminal laws to also apply to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center; to modify the penalty for an employer's failure to remit state income taxes withheld from an employee; and to authorize the conveyance of state-owned real estate.

84-2 (Edwards, Schaffer) (Amended)

Gongwer Coverage

SB 81

FIREARMS (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million.

76-6

Gongwer Coverage

SB 127

WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

84-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB 216 ■ **SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.)** To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs, to add the territory of Summit County to the Stark State College District, and to prescribe procedures for appointing the board of trustees of the combined technical college district.
60-32 (Amended)
Gongwer Coverage

SB 220 ■ **CYBERSECURITY (Hackett, B., Bacon, K.)** To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program, to allow transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and to alter the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law.
62-21 (Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED)
Gongwer Coverage

SB 221 ■ **AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.
73-19 (Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED)
Gongwer Coverage

SB 239 ■ **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.)** To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."
88-0
Gongwer Coverage

SB 299 ■ **WATER IMPROVEMENTS (Gardner, R., O'Brien, S.)** To credit additional amounts of the Local Government Fund to fund public safety services in areas that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of certain power plants between 2016 and 2017, to phase out the payments

over ten years, to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund; to support broadband development; to establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project; and to make appropriations, including appropriations for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie and the National Guard Scholarship Program.

88-0 (Amended)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 7

MEDICAL PROVIDER IMMUNITY (Cupp, R.) To grant qualified civil immunity to certain medical providers and emergency medical technicians who provide emergency medical services as a result of a disaster and through its duration; to provide that certain communications made regarding an unanticipated outcome of medical care, the development or implementation of standards under federal laws, and an insurer's reimbursement policies on health care are inadmissible as evidence in a medical claim; to specify the manner of sending a notice of intent to file a medical claim and provide a procedure for the discovery of other potential claims within a specified period after the filing of a medical claim; to provide civil immunity to certain medical providers regarding the discharge of a patient with a mental condition that threatens the safety of the patient or others; to permit access to peer review committee documents during authorized inspections by the Director of Health while preserving their confidentiality; and to clarify the definition of "medical claim."

71-16

Gongwer Coverage

HB 36

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial.

59-29 (Amended)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 92

PUBLIC INDECENCY (Schaffer, T.) To require an offender who knowingly commits the offense of public indecency under certain circumstances involving exposure of private parts likely to be viewed by minors and for the

purpose of sexual arousal or gratification to register as a Tier I sex offender/child-victim offender if the judge orders registration.

80-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 126 ■ **KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.)** To require a region-based kinship care navigator program, and to make an appropriation.

82-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 156 ■ **VISION CARE INSURANCE (Schuring, K.)** Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services.

75-2 (Hambley & Romanchuk)

Gongwer Coverage

HB 211 ■ **HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.)** To require the licensure of home inspectors, to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors, and to require realtors who recommend home inspectors to provide a list of home inspectors

74-6

Gongwer Coverage

HB 240 ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION (Barnes, J.)** To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency.

Bill: 77-0; Emergency: 75-6

Gongwer Coverage

HB 349 ■ **POLICE ANIMALS (LaTourette, S.)** To increase the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse and to include search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal.

69-11

Gongwer Coverage

HB 355 ■ **SEXTING (Hill, B., Rezabek, J.)** To generally prohibit sexting by a person under 19 years of age.

85-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 386 ■ **CREDIT FREEZES (Henne, M., Kelly, B.)** To modify the fees that a credit reporting agency can charge in relation to a credit report freeze.

82-2

Gongwer Coverage

HB 425 ■ **BODY CAMERAS (Antani, N., Craig, H.)** To provide that specified portions of peace officers' body-worn camera recordings and the infrastructure record of a public school are not public records for purposes of the Public Records Law.

88-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 428 ■ **STUDENT EXPRESSION (Ginter, T., LaTourette, S.)** Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018."

62-20

Gongwer Coverage

HB 469 ■ **TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.)** To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects.

78-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 479 ■ **DRUG PRICE INFORMATION (Lipps, S., West, T.)** Regarding pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists, and the disclosure to patients of drug price information.

75-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 480 ■ **MULTI-PARCEL AUCTIONS (Hill, B.)** To establish requirements governing multi-parcel auctions.

72-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 497 ■ **PRIVATE IMAGES** (Rogers, J., Manning, N.) To prohibit the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, to require that certain property involved in the offense be criminally forfeited, and to create certain legal rights and protections of a victim of the offense.
81-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 500 ■ **TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law.
81-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 502 ■ **YOUTH SUICIDE** (Anielski, M.) With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools.
82-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 511 ■ **MARRIAGE AGE** (Lanese, L., Rogers, J.) To make changes to the laws governing the ages at which persons may marry.
78-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 540 ■ **TEACHER EVALUATIONS** (Gavarone, T., Manning, N.) With regard to teacher evaluations.
84-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 543 ■ **COUNTY PROSECUTORS** (Perales, R., Hambley, S.) To allow a county prosecuting attorney to enter into a contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission to be its legal adviser.
79-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 572 ■ **RETIREMENT CREDIT** (Scherer, G., Howse, S.) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities.

80-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 595 ■ **PROBATE LAW (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.)** Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty guardianship services boards, the coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death, an application for the release of medical records and medical billing records, and adding involuntary manslaughter not resulting from a felony vehicular homicide offense to the list of offenses excluding an individual from inheriting from a decedent.

78-0

Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 18 ■ **SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.)** to eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances; to authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers, to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices; and to require that, upon request, county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees must share lodging tax return information with the directors of convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.

67-22

Gongwer Coverage

HB 87 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of the enrollment records of a community school, to clarify the time period within which a school district emergency levy or substitute levy may be renewed or replaced, to clarify the responsibilities of a school district treasurer regarding the signing or executing of certain documents, to require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for learning management software for internet- and computer-based community schools, regarding qualification for state payments by internet- or computer-based community schools, regarding joint

health and medical insurance programs by political subdivisions and county boards of developmental disabilities, regarding submission of five-year financial forecasts by public schools, and regarding the moratorium on certain provisions affecting community schools and school districts whose enrollments were affected due to enrolling students of a suspended e-school.

70-22

Gongwer Coverage

HB 263 ■

OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

79-10

Gongwer Coverage

HB 312 ■

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) To regulate the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, to modify the duties and powers of the Auditor of State, to specify that electronic submission of a public record request entitles the requestor to damages if the public office fails to comply with the Public Records Act, to make changes to the law governing financial planning and supervision commissions, and to authorize a property tax abatement for certain property subject to a submerged land lease and held by a municipal corporation.

91-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 318 ■

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers, to require the Facilities Construction Commission to study and report on school building security upgrades and to make an appropriation.

69-20

Gongwer Coverage

HB 336 ■

LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

84-6

Gongwer Coverage

HB 347 ■ **ROAD NAMING (Kelly, B., Dever, J.)** To designate multiple memorial highways.

91-0

Gongwer Coverage

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

SB 1 ■ **DRUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.)** To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, except for drug possession violations when the fentanyl-related compound is combined with marihuana or a Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance and the offender did not know of the fentanyl content; to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse; and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances.

59-10

Gongwer Coverage

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Community & Family Advancement Committee: Remove Rep. Brinkman, appoint Rep. Greenspan

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Agriculture & Rural Development

HB 560 ■ **PET FOOD (Lanese, L.)** To prohibit pet food from containing remains from an animal that was euthanized by the use of any drug injected intravenously or through another nonvascular route or remains from any dog or cat.
(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) said her measure "will provide pet owners some assurance that their pet food does not contain the remains of other cats and dogs and that it does not contain pentobarbital, the drug used to euthanize cats and dogs."

The sponsor referred to news stories in recent years about tainted pet food and noted the FDA had recalled products after pentobarbital, which is used by veterinarians to euthanize cats, dogs and horses, was found in the samples from an Ohio-based pet food company. Rep. Lanese said current state law doesn't sufficiently cover the products that rendering plants sell to pet food manufacturers. "Under current Ohio law, a commercial feed is adulterated if it bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance that may render it injurious to animal or human health, except that when the substance is not an added

substance. Since the drug is not added during processing, the feed may not be considered an added substance and therefore permissible," she said.

"Most pet owners do not want to feed their family dog or cat the remains of other dogs and cats. Even if a consumer actively tries to make an informed decision by reading the label, terms like animal meal and meat meal make it hard to decipher what exactly is in our pet's food," the sponsor said. "Guardrails to ensure that our pets are not eating other pets and ingesting euthanasia drugs is one small token we can offer consumers, especially since pet food companies are denying they are part of the pet food they sell."

Responding to a question from Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon), the sponsor said there are federal regulations regarding pet food content but the lack of any legal actions underscore the need for Ohio to take action and tighten its oversight.

Several members had questions about testing for the drug, and Rep. Lanese told Rep. Darrell Kick (R-Loudonville) that imposing such costs on rendering plants would likely lead to extensive pushback.

She told Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) she was unsure how many rendering plants existed in the state. "There's very little oversight of this industry," she said, adding the bill would only apply to Ohio plants.

Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) said he applauded the concept of the bill but questioned whether the oversight should be left to the free market, such as pet food makers putting testing labels on their products.

HB 631 **AMUSEMENT RIDES** (Hughes, J., Patterson, J.) To revise the laws governing amusement ride operation and safety, to designate this act as "Tyler's Law," and to declare an emergency. (**CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor**)

Insurance

HB 621 **DEATH BENEFITS** (Hughes, J.) To revise the payments that surviving family members receive from the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund and to permit surviving spouses and children to participate in the health, dental, and vision benefits offered to state employees as if the survivors were employees of this state. (**CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent**)

Chair Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) said the committee received a **fiscal note** detailing the bill's estimated costs. He said an amendment is being drafted in regard to a similar bill pending in the Senate.

SB 227 **HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS** (Huffman, M.) To require health plan issuers to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders. (**CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor**)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said the bill would give employers more information about claims made under their health insurance coverage while protecting information that details which individuals and dependents are receiving care.

That information will give small employers more data they can use to shop for coverage from insurers, he said. Without that information, small businesses are often left to renew coverage and accept rate increases proposed by insurers.

Claims information that would be shared with employers wouldn't include any personal information and he said the release of that redacted data isn't prohibited by federal law.

The result would spur more competition in the insurance market, potentially leading to lower prices, he said.

Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton) asked if there would be any cases where the release of information could be denied.

Mr. Huffman said the bill directs the release of non-identifiable claims information about all people covered under a company's policy.

Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester) said his initial reaction to the proposal is that if an employer is paying an insurance bill, it should have access to claims information.

Responding to **Rep. Michael Henne** (R-Clayton), Sen. Huffman said the bill is targeted to employers with between 50 and 100 employees, and indicated that leaders of smaller companies might already be aware of health conditions that their employees have.

Rep. Glenn Holmes (R-McDonald) questioned whether the sponsor would be willing to consider redacting pharmaceutical information, indicating that having knowledge of drug use could create ethical issues for those who make decisions about employee coverage.

Government Accountability & Oversight

SB 220 **CYBERSECURITY** (**Hackett, B., Bacon, K.**) To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program.
(**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-
Possible amendments & vote)

An amendment offered by **Rep. Kathleen Clyde** (D-Kent) to replace the phrase "reasonable compliance" with "actual compliance" was tabled in an 8-2 vote, with **Rep. Bernadine Kent** (D-Columbus) joining all the Republicans present in the vote, as she would do throughout the committee meeting after recently being exiled from the House Democratic Caucus.

In explaining her motion to table, **Rep. Dorothy Pelanda** (D-Marysville) said actual compliance could be a difficult bar for small businesses to clear.

"Reasonable compliance was arrived at after several interested party meetings and discussions with those people," she said.

Another failed amendment proposed by Rep. Clyde would have allowed a person whose private information is compromised to request the attorney general's office bring legal action. If it does not, the person would be able to bring legal action on behalf of the state and split the recovery.

An amendment offered by **Rep. Bill Seitz** (R-Cincinnati) that would allow owners of casinos with less than a 5% stake to avoid licensing requirements was added to the bill. He said the current law that requires licensing for anyone owning as little as 1% is unworkable for a publicly traded company.

Rep. Clyde questioned how the amendment does not run afoul of the single-subject rule.

Rep. Seitz responded the subject matter of the bill is commerce.

"I can't see anybody filing a lawsuit over this because it is simply common sense," he said.

An amendment offered by chairman Rep. Lou Blessing (R-Cincinnati) pertaining to blockchain technology e-signatures was also attached to the measure.

SB 221 **AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.)** To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. **(REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

A clarifying amendment offered by Rep. Blessing to make the language in the measure more consistent with the rest of the section was accepted without objection.

Two Democratic amendments - both offered by **Rep. Brigid Kelly** (D-Cincinnati) - were tabled.

The first would have removed language allowing a business to challenge an agency rule based on adverse impact. Rep. Kelly called the language "overly broad."

"I think the main thrust is really to just avoid harming business," Rep. Blessing said.

The other would have removed language allowing a business to contest a rule outside of the regular review period.

SB 263 **NOTARY PUBLIC (Huffman, M., Wilson, S.)** To enact the Notary Public Modernization Act. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)**

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under June 26.

Health

HB 167 **OPIOID MEDICATIONS (Edwards, J.)** Regarding addiction treatment and opioid prescribing by physicians and dentists. **(REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

The measure was reported unanimously.

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said a constituent with chronic pain raised concerns about the limitations in the initial draft of the proposal and said it could hinder patients' ability to get treatment.

Sponsor **Rep. Jay Edwards** (R-Nelsonville) said those provisions have been removed from the bill, which now focuses on ensuring patients have access to medication-assisted treatment if a prescriber is unavailable. "I got a lot of the same calls," he said.

HB 326 **PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY (Seitz, B., Gavarone, T.)** To authorize certain psychologists to prescribe psychotropic and other drugs for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illness. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 6th Hearing-Possible substitute & amendments)**

HB 546 **TELEMEDICINE (Patton, T.)** To prohibit health benefit plans from treating telemedicine services differently from in-person health care services solely because they are provided as telemedicine services. **(CONTINUED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Jimelle Rumberg, executive director of the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association, said the measure would enhance physicians' efforts to provide quality, cost-effective care by allowing the care delivery system to evolve through telemedicine.

"As employers and insurers continue to drive consumers to high-deductible insurance plans that require more patient out-of-pocket requirements, telemedicine and its ability to provide quality care for lower prices could help consumers better manage their out-of-pocket requirements that are mandated by these high-deductible plans," she said.

She disputed claims that the legislation would mandate the use of telemedicine by insurers or health plans, saying it only creates a "payment parity" between in-person and telemedicine services.

"HB546 simply says that payment discrimination to a provider cannot take place solely based on the fact that the service is provided via telemedicine," she wrote. "Insurers and health plans still would have utilization management tools they may use to regulate telemedicine services and HB546 does not infringe on those capabilities."

Miranda Motter, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Health Plans, said in written testimony that the proposal constitutes a statutory mandate for coverage of telehealth, which could stifle innovation and limit the technology's ability to be a tool to drive down costs.

"Telehealth should not be used to increase health care costs for consumers, employers and the state as the payer for Medicaid and the State Employees Health Plan," she wrote. "As a result, Ohio's health care consumers should not have to pay for 'bricks and mortar' infrastructure, facility fees and other types of fees hospitals and doctors charge for in-person services."

HB 559 CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS (Gonzales, A., Landis, A.) To make changes to the law governing immunization of children enrolled in school, preschool programs, and day-care programs. (CONTINUED SUBSTITUTE; 4th Hearing-Possible substitute & amendments)

The panel accepted a substitute version that removes the requirement that the Department of Health publish immunization rates by school building and makes other changes, said Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green). (Comp Doc)

The school building change stemmed from concerns that it could lead to shaming and might allow specific students to be identified, she said.

The new version retains provisions about school-level reporting to ODH and clarifies that information from private and parochial schools is not to be posted on the department's website, she said.

Rep. Gavarone said the new version expands the eligible documents to include a copy of the child's immunization record and allows the provider to submit a form for parents seeking a non-medical exemption. It also delays implementation until the 2021 school year.

The committee received written testimony from Donna Kazee, president of Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, who urged committee members to pay more attention to concerns from opponents.

Ms. Kazee raised concerns about the tracking of vaccination and exemption status and the public posting of data, and about the insertion of a third party into the exemption process against the parent's choosing.

"These and other parents should not be forced to receive education and information when they are declining for religious/conscience reasons, which have nothing to do with medical information," she said.

She also suggested more details of the required form be standardized, raising concerns that it could include statements such as that they are placing their child and others in danger by not vaccinating.

"We encourage and are happy to assist with further discussion about both standardized form contents and responsibility and determination of standardized risk and benefit information," she said.

HB 677 **MENTAL HEALTH (Barnes, J.)** To require the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate a demonstration program under which a mental health trauma center is established as part of a county hospital located in Cuyahoga County. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)**

Sponsor Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland) said it would require a mental health trauma center to be established through a demonstration program at a county hospital in Cuyahoga County. "In the state of Ohio, we have a crisis of mental health issues, and largely our government has been reactive to the problem," he said.

The proposal is intended to get out in front of the issue by improving access to mental health services, particularly short-term services, he said.

The sponsor said he hoped to work out the details of the proposal over the summer.

HB 72 **STEP THERAPY (Johnson, T., Antonio, N.)** To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 6th Hearing-Possible substitute)**

The committee accepted a substitute version that **Rep. Terry Johnson** (R-McDermott) said made a variety of changes. **(Fiscal Note)**

The new version replaces the terms "based on medical necessity" and "medically appropriate" with "consistent with medical and scientific evidence," he said. It also reduces the exemptions to four and modifies them. It now exempts a patient when the medication is contra-indicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction or physical or mental harm, as opposed to previously just if it is contra-indicated, he said.

The substitute version also makes changes to the appeals process, he said.

Civil Justice

HB 147 **HUMANE SOCIETIES (Hambley, S.)** To make changes to humane society law and to make humane society agents subject to bribery law. **(REPORTED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Corey Roscoe, Ohio state director for the Humane Society, submitted interested party testimony in which she said concerns remain that the regulations proposed "can create overdue burdens and unintentionally make it harder for humane societies to perform their volunteer law enforcement duties."

"One prominent concern of the bill is to require non-prosecution requirements entered in by humane society-appointed prosecutors be approved by a judge but not required for all prosecutors and cases prosecuted under 959," Ms. Roscoe wrote. "The law should be

consistent for all prosecutors if the goal of judicial review is to serve as a check and balance."

HB 615 **DEBT COLLECTIONS (West, T.)** To require creditors, prior to collecting the debt of a decedent outside of probate, to explicitly inform the person from whom payment is sought that the person is under no obligation to pay the debt. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Due to the lateness of the committee's start, in terms of HB615, HB672 and HB694, Chair **Rep. Jim Butler** (R-Oakwood) said the panel would accept written sponsor testimony to constitute each bill's first hearing. Sponsors may appear before the panel at a later date to answer questions, he said.

In written testimony, **Rep. Thomas West** (D-Canton) urged support for his measure that aims to ensure those who have lost loved ones don't mistakenly believe they are obligated to pay the deceased's debts.

"House Bill 615 will require all creditors that have claims against an estate to inform the person from whom payment is sought, that they as an individual are under no obligation to pay the debt," the sponsor wrote. "The bill also states that failure to inform the individual is considered an unconscionable act and renders the creditor subject to legal action by the Attorney General or by the individual that was left uninformed."

HB 672 **PUBLIC RECORDS (Barnes, J.)** To create a procedure by which a person may obtain a court order to correct an error, omission, or legal defect in a public record, and to name the act the "Final Order Correction Act." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland) said in his written presentation the proposal would enable a person to file a petition in the court of common pleas to request a correction or invalidation if an error, omission or legal defect is found in a public record.

The error must personally affect the complainant, who must then file with the county where the office responsible for the record is located or where the record is kept. The office must then respond and state the basis for belief the record is accurate.

The court would then determine whether a correction or invalidation is required based on a preponderance of the evidence. "The (bill) will ensure that the constitutional right of due process is achieved," Rep. Barnes wrote.

HB 694 **CONTRACT LIMITATIONS (Lang, G.)** To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester Twp.) said in written testimony his proposal is "short but significant" in that it reduces the statute of limitations for written and oral contracts from eight and six years respectively to three years.

"As a business owner, the more certainty I can gain, the more business risks I can take,"

Rep. Lang said. "If I know my liability on a contract only runs for three years, I can take on different relationships. I can be certain that my current obligation will run for a time certain.

This allows me to launch capital expenditures, strategically deploy capital, and to secure appropriate risk management devices."

Ohio previously had a 15-year statute on written contracts until 2012. He pointed to similar steps taken by Kentucky and other states, saying they risk putting Ohio at a competitive disadvantage.

"A significant, tangible cost savings will result for business by removing the necessity to retain eight years of documents," Rep. Lang said. "More and more, document retention is becoming a cost driver for business. Limiting the need to only three years, will remove a key burden on businesses."

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 4:36 PM
To: Trefny, Charles
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Thanks for your quick response! I'll get this sent out right away.

Thanks again!

Libby Westlake

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger | Ohio House of Representatives
614.728.5448

From: Trefny, Charles
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Libby,

Here is a quote from Senator Patton for the press release on SB 27:

"Today marks a huge victory for Ohio's firefighting community. This legislation ensures that this state has a mechanism in place to help firefighters who—due to the nature of their service to the public—are exposed to a vast number of carcinogens and therefore, suffer from an increased risk of certain types of cancers. Ohio's laws should reflect our employers' responsibility to ensure as safe a work environment as is reasonably possible. Ohio's firefighters have no unrealistic expectations regarding this, no firefighter wants to need the protections of this bill, at the same time, no firefighter should be without the protections of this bill."

Thanks!

Charlie Trefny | Senior Legislative Aide
State Representative Tom Patton
Majority Whip
614-466-4895
charles.trefny@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Trefny, Charles <Charles.Trefny@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Charlie – Below is the press release for SB 27. I worked from a template we had used when we passed the bill, so if Rep. Patton wants to add more specifics, feel free to make edits. Let me know when it is approved and I'll send. Thanks!



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
January 4, 2017

Governor Kasich Signs Legislation Providing Workers' Compensation Eligibility for Firefighters at Risk for Cancer

COLUMBUS—State Representative Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) today applauded Governor Kasich's signing of Senate Bill 27, legislation that creates presumptive eligibility for workers' compensation for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. Rep. Patton sponsored the legislation during the 131st General Assembly as a member of the Ohio Senate.

Due to their line of work, firefighters are more susceptible to developing cancer, as they are regularly exposed to high levels of toxins and carcinogens. According to sponsor testimony, studies have shown that more than half of firefighters in the United States are likely to develop cancer.

QUOTE

Under the new law, all types of cancers and their treatments would be covered under the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund for any firefighter, full-time or volunteer, who has worked for at least six years on hazardous duty. A firefighter's cancer will be presumed to be work-related unless the employer can

demonstrate otherwise, making it easier for firefighters to receive the treatment they need.

Senate Bill 27 will take effect???

-30-

For more information, contact Charlie Trefny at charles.trefny@ohiohouse.gov or (614) 466-4895.

From: Trefny, Charles
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Rep. Patton quote for press release:

"I continue to be thrilled at the opportunity to represent the people of the 7th House district. This begins my 15th year representing this district. I have raised six children in this district, and it has been my home my entire life. I am excited at the prospect of fighting for the issues that are important to the people of the 7th house district which includes my daughters and granddaughters."

Also, Governor Kasich signed SB 27 today. There was plenty of media there today, and the senate did a press release for us back when the bill was passed, but Rep. Patton still wished to have a press release sent out from the house.

Thanks, and please contact me with any questions.

Charlie Trefny | Senior Legislative Aide
State Representative Tom Patton
Majority Whip
614-466-4895
charles.trefny@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Trefny, Charles <Charles.Trefny@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Great, thank you! Below is also a press release regarding Rep. Patton's swearing in today. It just needs a quote and his approval before I send to his local press (sometime today or tomorrow). Thanks again!



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
January 3, 2017

Contact: Charles Trefny
(614) 466-4895

Representative Patton Sworn In as State Representative of the 7th House District

COLUMBUS—State Representative Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) today was sworn in as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives for the 132nd General Assembly. He represents the 7th Ohio House District, which includes portions of Cuyahoga County. He was also elected by his peers to serve as Majority Whip.

QUOTE

Having previously served in the Ohio House, Representative Patton most recently held a seat in the Ohio Senate, elected in 2008. He was the Senate Majority Floor Leader and the Vice Chairman of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee and was a member of multiple other committees. Rep. Patton has received countless awards for his commitment to public service.

Additionally, Rep. Patton is an active member of St. Colman's parish and serves as chair of the church's finance committee. He serves on the Incarnate Word Academy and Holy Name High School endowment boards, is a Cleveland Police Historical Society trustee, and has been a longstanding Strongsville Chamber of Commerce member.

A widower, Rep. Patton raised his family of five daughters and one son and has been blessed with six grandchildren.

-30-

Editor's note: See the attached photos for your use.

From: Trefny, Charles
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Patton Bio

Libby,

Looks great. Thanks for your work on this, and you are correct, his hometown is Strongsville.

Charlie Trefny

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Trefny, Charles <Charles.Trefny@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Patton Bio

Hi Charles,

Attached is Rep. Patton's updated biography for the House website. I used his biography from the Senate's website and updated accordingly. Please make any changes as you see fit and confirm his hometown. We would like to have this approved and put on the website by 5:00pm tomorrow.

Thanks!

Libby Westlake

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger | Ohio House of Representatives
614.728.5448

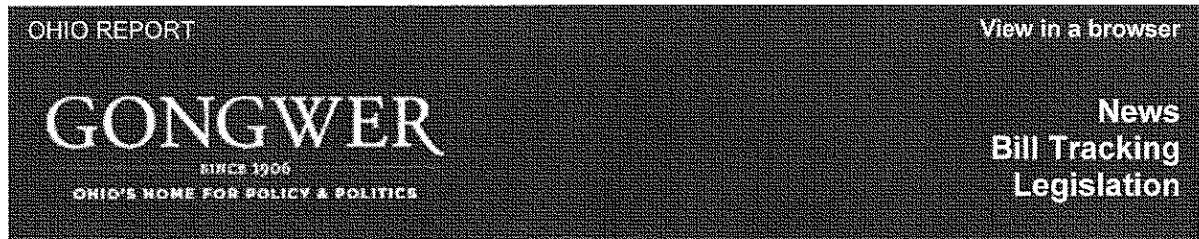
From: Gongwer News Service

Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 6:41 PM

To: DL_Gongwer

Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Attachments: Jan4Senate.htm; Jan4House.htm; Jan4.htm; 170104dayplan.htm



OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Kasich Signs MBR Bill To Combat Opiate Addiction, 27 Others

**Governor Signs Proposal Limiting Local Ballot Issues Despite
Constitutional Questions**

**Kasich, Brown Raise Alarms About ACA Repeal; Portman Defends
Action**

**High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case, Five Others In First Oral
Arguments Of 2017**

Portman Plans To Lead In Blocking Recognition Of Crimea Annexation

**State Assessment Finds Medicaid Expansion Boosted Health Outcomes,
Ability Of Participants To Find Work**

Ohio Receives Average Marks On Annual Education Report Card

Capitol Scene: Jones Named Director Of Groundwork Ohio

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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Senate Activity for Wednesday, January 4, 2017

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 27

(Enacted)

FIREFIGHTER CANCER (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter.

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 139

(Enacted)

POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (Seitz, B., Williams, S.) To require the clerk of a common pleas court to retain a copy of the original trial file when a death penalty is imposed, to specify that there is no page limit on petitions for postconviction relief in death penalty cases or in appeals of denials of such relief, to modify the time for filing an amended postconviction relief petition in death penalty cases, to provide for depositions and subpoenas during discovery in postconviction relief proceedings in death penalty cases, and to require a judge hearing a postconviction relief proceeding in a death penalty case to state specifically in the findings of fact and conclusions of law why each claim was either denied or granted.

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 207

(Enacted)

ROAD NAMING (Coley, B.) To designate a portion of State Route 73 in Butler County as the "SPC James E. Hall Jr. Memorial Highway."

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 257

(Enacted)

REAL PROPERTY (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments.

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 273

(Enacted)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Bacon, K.) To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act.

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 319 ■
(Enacted)

DRUG REGULATIONS (Eklund, J.) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, the procedures used by pharmacy benefit managers, and the provision of addiction and mental health services.

Signed: January 4, 2017

SB 332 ■
(Enacted)

INFANT MORTALITY (Jones, S., Tavares, C.) To provide for the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on Infant Mortality and to authorize pharmacists to administer by injection certain prescribed drugs.

Signed: January 4, 2017

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
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House Activity for Wednesday, January 4, 2017

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

HB 216 ■ **NURSES** (Pelanda, D.) To revise the law governing advanced practice registered nurses.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 236 ■ **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS** (Landis, A., Blessing, L.) To require professional engineers to complete continuing professional development hours in professional ethics or rules relevant to engineering or surveying practices.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 276 ■ **CHIROPRACTORS** (Schuring, K.) To authorize chiropractors to engage in certain activities involving nutrition-related items and therapies, nonprescription drugs, and medical goods and devices.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 285 ■ **PRESCRIPTION REFILLS** (Sprague, R.) To authorize pharmacists to dispense multiple refills of a prescription simultaneously under certain circumstances.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 290 ■ **TERMINAL PATIENTS** (Sprague, R., Anielski, M.) To permit a patient with a terminal condition to be treated with a drug, product, or device that is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, to modify the laws governing the appointment of a county home superintendent or administrator, and to permit health care professionals to earn continuing education credit by providing volunteer health care services to indigent and uninsured persons.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 341 ■ **TOWING LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to establish towing and storage fees and to review those fees every five years, to establish an after-hours fee for the retrieval of personal items from a motor vehicle that was towed from private property or otherwise
(Enacted)

upon the order of law enforcement, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to impose criminal penalties for the failure of a towing service to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity, to allow a repair garage, towing service, or storage facility to obtain a salvage certificate of title to a motor vehicle under specified circumstances, to alter notice requirements applicable to a salvage auction or pool that obtains a salvage certificate of title for a motor vehicle, to establish a new civil action, and to make other changes to the towing law.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 347 ■
(Enacted)

CIVIL FORFEITURES (McColley, R., Brinkman, T.) To modify the laws governing criminal and civil asset forfeitures, to revise the procedures upon a writ of execution of goods claimed by a person other than the defendant, and to establish the offense of receiving proceeds of an offense subject to forfeiture proceedings and permit the state to file a civil action against the person who allegedly committed that offense under certain circumstances.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 378 ■
(Enacted)

TRAFFIC ARRESTS (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.) To authorize law enforcement officers of township police districts and joint police districts, and township constables, serving a population of 50,000 or less to make arrests for motor vehicle-related violations committed on national highways that are not part of the interstate highway system.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 384 ■
(Enacted)

HIGHER EDUCATION AUDITS (Schaffer, T., Duffey, M.) To specify that state institutions of higher education may be subject to performance audits conducted by the Auditor of State, to make changes to the operation of state programs, to modify the state tax laws, and to make capital and operating appropriations. WITH LINE ITEM VETO

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 388 ■
(Enacted)

OVI OFFENSES (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to a first-time OVI offender, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 410 ■ **TRUANCY** (Rezabek, J., Hayes, B.) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 432 ■ **ESTATE LAW** (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act; to raise the ceilings on the optional additional fees that a probate, domestic relations, juvenile, municipal, or county court or the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court may charge to fund computerization of the court or the court clerk's office, and to authorize use of the additional clerk's fees to fund technological advances in the clerk's office; to authorize the director or any designee of the Franklin County Guardianship Service Board to act on behalf of the Board on guardianship matters, and to permit the Board to charge a reasonable fee for services to wards; and to adopt the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 436 ■ **DUI SENTENCES** (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 438 ■ **EDUCATION LAWS** (Patterson, J.) To designate the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving Day as "Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week"; to require the health curriculum of each school district to include the instruction on the positive effects of organ and tissue donation; to permit school districts not to evaluate school counselors who are on extended leave or have submitted a notice of retirement; to modify the timelines for the sale or lease of real property by school districts; and to require the School Facilities Commission to give priority for project funding to school districts that resulted from certain types of transfers, mergers, or consolidations and demonstrate an effective use of facility space as determined by the Commission.
(Enacted)
Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 444 ■ **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To amend section 4301.22 of the Revised Code to allow A-1-A, A-1c, and certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor, as
(Enacted)

applicable, to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 451 ■
(Enacted)

PROTECTION ORDERS (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding, to void any objections to a living will made by a person whose statutory priority would be so forfeited, and to provide that an attorney in fact under a durable power of attorney for health care is competent to make decisions pertaining to life-sustaining treatment, nutrition, or hydration, only if the attorney in fact is not subject to a temporary protection order or civil protection order in which the principal is the alleged victim.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 455 ■
(Enacted)

BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 463 ■
(Enacted)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES (Dever, J.) Relative to the Ohio Uniform Commercial Code, real property foreclosure and escrow transactions, certain partial property tax exemptions, and local ballot initiatives; to require the coverage of autism services; to reimburse child abuse and child neglect regional prevention council members for expenses and prohibit conflicts of interest; and to amend the statutory procedure for recalling certain municipal officials to include a deadline for filing a petition for recall.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 520 ■
(Enacted)

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (Schuring, K., Ramos, D.) To revise the law governing the state's public retirement systems.

Signed: January 4, 2017

HB 532 ■
(Enacted)

REAL ESTATE SALES (Smith, R.) Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons.

Signed: January 4, 2017

17 S. High St. Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

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Volume #86, Report #2 -- Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Kasich Signs MBR Bill To Combat Opiate Addiction, 27 Others

The state will continue passing legislation and setting aside funding in its efforts to turn the tide on the opiate epidemic, but it's up to individuals and communities to put to use the resources they've been provided to make a difference, Gov. John Kasich said.

His comments came on Wednesday before signing legislation (SB 319) aimed at filling gaps in the state's efforts to fight addiction.

The measure was one of 28 the governor signed on Wednesday, putting the final touches on the last pieces of legislation to move through the General Assembly in the waning days of the post-election session.

Gov. Kasich also line-item vetoed - for the second time in recent weeks - a provision that would provide a sales tax exemption for digital jukebox downloads. It was added to legislation (HB 384) specifying that state institutions of higher education may be subject to performance audits conducted by the auditor.

According to his previous veto message, the governor said the "broadly drafted exemption could potentially have the unintended consequence of negating the state's tax on digital products," including books, movies and music.

The Department of Taxation had projected the tax change would cost the state \$15 million a year in lost revenue.

Crafted by the administration as a mid-biennium review bill, the opiate addiction measure limits the number of opiate pills that can be prescribed, requires professional licensure for pharmacy technicians and allows for the expansion of for-profit medication assisted treatment clinics.

Since it began addressing the opiate epidemic in 2011 by cracking down on pill mills, Ohio has created one of the most comprehensive approach to drug addiction in the country, Gov. Kasich said.

However, overdose deaths have continued to rise and communities are seeking further help to address the issue.

Gov. Kasich said it's important that individuals and communities take responsibility for making a change and understand that the only way the opiate epidemic can be curbed is by maximizing the resources that have been made available.

Among the tools that have been provided are an improved drug reporting system used by doctors and pharmacists to rein in doctor shopping, increased access to the overdose reversing drug Nalaxone, investments in medication assisted treatment, and a streamlining of treatment for those in prison.

"There are probably more tools to come, but we're not going to defeat this just from the top down" Gov. Kasich said. "There are a number of problems that we have in this country and in our state that have to be dealt with right in the neighborhood, right in the family, right in the community."

Also speaking at the ceremonial bill signing were: Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Tracy Plouck; Department of Public Safety Director John Born; Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven Schierholt; Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay); Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon); Pharmacist Missy Drexel; and a Worthington resident in recovery.

The governor also signed healthcare measures regarding advanced practice registered nurses (HB 216) and drugs that haven't received full U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval (HB 290).

As the APRN bill worked its way through the General Assembly last year, the bill underwent changes to make it more palatable to doctors' groups that opposed the significant increase in scope of practice for the nurses.

The legislation will expand from three to five the number of APRNs a physician can collaborate with, create a 120-day grace period for APRNs whose collaborative relationships are terminated, and change the formulary for drugs the APRN can prescribe to exclusionary, allowing them to prescribe more and newer drugs.

Sponsors and supporters said the changes would increase access to care, particularly in underserved areas, by making it easier and more stable for APRNs to open practices.

The bill was significantly adjusted from when it was introduced, when it proposed eliminating the collaborative relationship altogether.

The so-called "Right to Try" law, meanwhile, will allow patients with terminal conditions to be treated with drugs that have passed the safety stage but not the efficacy stage of the FDA's approval process, giving them a chance to use drugs that have not yet been proven effective.

During deliberations on the bill, lawmakers heard from patients and parents of patients with terminal illnesses who said they would like a chance to try potentially life-saving medications, but the FDA process takes too long and trials are often difficult to get into. Similar legislation has passed in 32 other states.

Also endorsed by the governor were bills to provide judges with the discretion to require ignition interlock devices for first time OVI offenders (HB 388) and to align

immobilization orders for second-time OVI offenders with mandatory license suspensions (HB 436■).

Other measures receiving the governor's signature on Wednesday included those to:

- Create Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week and require schools to instruct students on organ and tissue donation as part of the health curriculum (HB 438■)
- Revise the law governing state public retirement systems (HB 520■)
- Create a special speed limit in school bus boarding zones (HB 455■)
- Allow D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples to customers (HB 444■)
- Permit multiple simultaneous refills of certain prescriptions (HB 285■)
- Modify the law governing real estate brokers and salespersons (HB 532■)
- Revise foreclosure actions and relevant laws (HB 463■) (*See separate story*)
- Require schools to implement a truancy intervention model (HB 410■)
- Modify several post-conviction relief procedures. It, too, cleared both chambers unanimously (SB 139■)
- Provide workers' compensation coverage and other benefits to firefighters who incur cancer that is deemed to have been caused while performing their duties (SB 27■)

The complete list of the bills signed Wednesday can be viewed under Senate and House activities.

Kasich Signs Bill Limiting Local Ballot Issues Despite Constitutional Questions

Gov. John Kasich has signed a mortgage foreclosure bill that includes language requiring local election boards and the secretary of state to nix local ballot issues they deem unconstitutional.

But the Ohio Legislative Service Commission has already warned in its analysis that the provision could be derailed by a future constitutional challenge.

The bill (HB 463■) was among the last batch of proposals to be signed by Gov. John Kasich Wednesday from the 131st General Assembly. (*See separate story*).

After passing the House last spring, the bill began the lame duck session as a measure to streamline the home foreclosure process before picking up a series of amendments pertaining to autism health coverage, housing civil rights laws, and other topics.

The ballot provision in question requires a board of election or the secretary of state to invalidate a local initiative petition if either determines the petition in whole or in part goes beyond a local government's constitutional authority.

Examples of initiatives that could be impacted are recent local ballot attempts to ban hydraulic fracturing or decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana - both of which violate state laws.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, while it did not lobby on behalf of the bill, said it is supportive of the measure's signing.

"Local municipalities cannot supersede state or federal regulations," OOGA Executive Director Shawn Bennett said in an interview, adding that the initiatives like those banning fracking only serve to confuse voters.

"Why vote on something that does not actually achieve what the voters are trying to accomplish?" he asked. "If it is illegal, it should not be put on the ballot."

But the LSC, in its analysis, argued the provisions "might be vulnerable to a challenge under the Ohio Constitution on two grounds: (1) that the bill infringes on the people's right of initiative, and (2) that the bill violates the separation of powers doctrine."

LSC wrote that the constitution and the Ohio Supreme Court have determined the judicial branch has exclusive jurisdiction to determine a measure's constitutionality.

"While the secretary of state or a board of elections has the authority to determine whether a petition meets the procedural requirements to appear on the ballot, it is not clear whether the Constitution would allow the secretary of state or a board of elections to reject a petition on the basis that it proposes a law that, if adopted, would be unconstitutional," LSC continued.

"A reviewing court might rule that the constitutional right of initiative includes the right to initiate a potentially unconstitutional statute. If the statute became law and was challenged on constitutional grounds, the courts would have the authority to prevent its enforcement."

Other provisions in the bill include:

- Requiring health plan insurers to provide coverage for autism and establishes minimum coverage requirements.

- Specifying a municipal recall petition is not valid 90 days from the date of the first signatures and requires the recall election to be held at the next primary or general election more than 90 days from the date of the petition's certification.
- Revising law pertaining to Community Reinvestment Area tax exemptions.
- Modifying laws related to disbursements in escrow transactions pertaining to residential real estate.
- Making several changes to housing civil rights laws, including making the awarding of damages and attorney's fees permissive.
- Enacting further changes under Uniform Commercial Code laws regarding electric records and signatures; obligations for double payment; and unsigned, telephonic authorized checks.

Kasich, Brown Raise Alarms About ACA Repeal; Portman Defends Action

Ohio leaders are undertaking efforts to get Republicans in Congress to rethink their course as they begin making moves to dismantle the Affordable Care Act without having specific plans to effectively replace it.

Gov. John Kasich and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) have said they plan to push for the continuation of consumer protections found in the ACA and Medicaid expansion adopted by Ohio until improvements can be made.

Both have raised concerns about what could happen to the estimated 700,000 Ohioans who have coverage as a result of the Obama Administration's signature legislative achievement. U.S. Sen Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park), who is supportive of the repeal, has meanwhile made attempts to quell any fears related to the GOP's efforts.

Countless Ohioans have been positively impacted by the change in law and could stand to lose under an immediate repeal, Sen. Brown told reporters on a Wednesday conference call.

Currently, the ACA requires insurance companies to take on individuals with pre-existing conditions and eliminates lifetime spending caps, he said. It also allowed for the Kasich Administration-led expansion of Medicaid and resulted in the elimination of numerous out-of-pocket costs for senior citizens.

A wholesale repeal of so-called Obamacare would eliminate those protections and cost-savings that Ohioans have enjoyed since it largely went into effect in 2013, Sen. Brown said.

"(Congressional Republicans) are on their way to doing great damage and I think it's up to all of us...to talk about these real consequences with real people's lives," Sen. Brown

said. "There are hundreds of thousands of Ohioans whose lives will be negatively affected."

He said he's spoken recently with Gov. Kasich about finding ways to maintain the expansion with the help of the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

For his part, Gov. Kasich said he's headed to Washington, D.C. to speak about how Medicaid expansion has been a boon for the state, particularly as it works to curb the heroin epidemic and provide treatment to addicts. (*See separate story*)

"The fact of the matter is we have a lot more people covered, there's a lot more things happening and if, for example, it went away, then what happens to these people?" he said at a Statehouse press conference.

"There's room for improvement, but to repeal and not to replace, I just want to know what's going to happen to all those people who find themselves left out in the cold," he later added.

Meanwhile, Sen. Portman shared details on his party's plans for repealing and replacing the ACA during his own press call.

He acknowledged concerns that the ACA will be repealed quickly, and said it could be two or three years before it is replaced. Nonetheless, he said, those that are covered under the law will not lose insurance in the interim period. (*See separate story*)

"The Obamacare repeal vote really is a vote to say that over the next period of time...that there will be a transition to a new system," he said.

With a new plan, Sen. Portman said he hopes to focus on providing more choice to consumers and more flexibility to states, noting Ohio applied for waivers to do so but was denied by the Obama administration.

"I think Gov. Kasich and the legislators should have the ability to be able to provide better care, and they know better than the bureaucrats here in Washington do," he said.

"This thing hasn't worked for the people I represent," Sen. Portman added.

However, Akron resident Kathy Giller, who joined Sen. Brown on his conference call, said the ACA has literally been a lifesaver for her husband, who was unable to get a health insurance company to take him on as a client after he was diagnosed with cancer.

She said her family is facing other challenges now because of expensive medications that cost thousands of dollars each month.

"Unfortunately there are hundreds if not thousands of stories just like that in Ohio alone," Sen. Brown said. "This health insurance matters to families that would be in much, much worse situations without it."

Instead of working to repeal law changes that have significantly increased the number of insured Americans and largely decreased what they pay for health care, Sen. Brown implored Congress to look for ways to improve up on it - starting with policies that would decrease drug prices.

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, 80% of surveyed Americans believe the cost of their prescriptions is too high and Congress should work to lower them, he said.

Sen. Brown is the co-sponsor on bipartisan legislation that would reduce patent exclusivity for new drugs and he's also worked to eliminate direct-to-consumer marketing and permit the federal government to negotiate drug prices. Each of those efforts would reduce medication costs, he said.

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case, Five Others In First Oral Arguments Of 2017

The Ohio Supreme Court next week will hear a case that could decide the constitutionality of a law aimed at curtailing the use of municipal traffic cameras.

Both sides in the case - the state and the city of Dayton - say the court's decision could have major implication for Home Rule powers across Ohio. (Docket)

The case came about following the passage of legislation (SB342, 130th General Assembly) that Dayton - and several other municipalities - claims contains several unconstitutional provisions.

The state, however, argues the measure creates uniformity across Ohio for the use of automated traffic cameras.

One of the most onerous provisions, according to the city of Dayton, requires the physical presence of a full-time officer at the site of automated traffic cameras in use.

"The officer just has to be 'present' in body at the location of a device. Moreover, the statute requires that the officer be a full-time officer in the jurisdiction, so even though Ohio law allows a part-time police officer to make felony arrests, a part-time officer is deemed unfit by SB342 to be present at the location of a traffic camera," the city wrote in its brief.

The city also cites an Ohio Legislative Service Commission analysis that found the requirement could cost cities across the state as much as \$73 million per year.

The state, though, argues that provision inserts a dose of "common sense" into the use of automated traffic cameras.

"On the other hand, a police officer's presence will, among other things, detect camera system malfunctions, identify situations where a camera finds a violation when none exists, or recognize circumstances where a citation should not be issued (such as when a father is driving his screaming daughter, who is giving birth, to the hospital)," the state writes in its brief.

Dayton, which utilizes more than 36 automated traffic cameras at intersections, also calls into question the need for a three-year traffic study before the automated cameras can be utilized.

"The statute does not require the study to be referenced in a city's decision as to whether to place a traffic camera at a new location, and a city is allowed to install a new traffic camera regardless of the outcome of the study," the city said in its brief, which also noted that it experienced a 45% reduction in red light violation accidents at intersections in which cameras were installed.

The state said the study requirement is "not irrational."

"Indeed, a host of state provisions direct municipalities to undertake studies of this sort. State law, for example, permits local authorities to ask the department to reduce speed limits on particular roads, but only after they 'determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation' that the reduction is necessary," the state argues.

The state also claims that if the court sides with the city, it will effectively curtail its ability to restrict municipal police powers.

"At day's end, the Home Rule Amendment's framers enacted a compromise. Municipalities gained the power to establish internal government structures, but not the power to regulate the citizenry in a way that conflicted with the General Assembly's choices. Yet Dayton (and the amici cities) ask the court to undo that compromise by granting them supremacy in the police-power realm," it writes.

The city, on the other hand, makes the case that if the court were to side with the state it would effectively gut Home Rule in Ohio.

"The state is in essence asking this Court to ignore the constitutional impact of the contested provisions and look only at the larger legislative enactment. This is exactly the opposite of what this court and the Home Rule Amendment require. Adopting the state's approach would remove all limitations on the legislature's power, and render the Home Rule Amendment meaningless," it wrote.

The cities of Akron, East Cleveland, Springfield and Toledo - three of which have similar cases pending that have been put on hold for a decision in the Dayton case - filed briefs

in support of Dayton's position. The Ohio Municipal League also filed a brief in support of the city.

Custom Seal, a manufacturer of custom-made roofing systems for the state, filed a brief in support of the state's position.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell recused himself from the case and will be replaced by Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Craig Robert Baldwin.

The case will also be one of the first to be heard by the high court's newest justices, Pat Fischer and Pat DeWine.

The court will hear oral arguments in five other cases next week:

- In *State v. Thomas*, convicted murderer Joseph Thomas will argue that his conviction and death sentence for the 2010 murder of Ann McSween should be overturned due to several errors at trial.
- In *Cleveland Metro. Bar Assn. v. Donchatz*, the court will decide whether to accept the recommendation of the Board of Professional Conduct to suspend a Columbus attorney for two years with six months stayed after it found he violated rules in four matters.
- In *Clendenin v. Girl Scouts of W. Ohio*, an employee of the Girl Scouts will attempt to make the case that the Bureau of Workers' Compensation improperly stopped benefits for a previously existing autoimmune disorder that was aggravated by a work injury.
- In *Wilson v. Lawrence*, the court will decide if a claim is valid if it indirectly reaches an executor by the law's deadline.
- In *re Application of Coll*, a University of Toledo law school graduate will argue that prohibiting him from taking the bar exam until 2019 after he referenced the KKK to describe minor traffic incidents in which he was involved is a violation of his right to free speech.

Portman Plans To Lead In Blocking Recognition Of Crimea Annexation

In his new role as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman said on Wednesday he would oppose any effort by United States to recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea.

While the Terrace Park Republican said he would be surprised if President-elect Donald Trump did attempt to recognize the annexation, Sen. Portman said he would lead the congressional effort to oppose such a move.



Sen. Portman

"I think that we should never recognize the Russian annexation of Crimea. It was illegal," he said during a conference call.

Recognition of the Russian annexation of the Ukrainian territory would send the wrong message to the international community, Sen. Portman said.

"I think that's really important that the U.S shows no flexibility there. Our allies are watching," he said.

Sen. Portman said another goal in his new post is to restore American leadership around the world after eight years of the Obama administration "leading from behind."

"The U.S. leadership role is necessary for stability," he said.

Sen. Portman also said he wants to work with India in its fight against terrorism.

"It's a fresh start and we're turning a new page," he said.

Other priorities for Sen. Portman include tax reform, full funding to fight the nation's heroin epidemic and an ongoing investigation of BackPage.com for alleged human trafficking.

"We've made a lot of progress in the last six years and passed a lot of legislation and I plan to continue to do that. I'm hopeful that we can address some of the bigger issues that face the country that have been left unattended, like tax reform and regulatory relief," he said.

One of the top priorities of Mr. Trump and Sen. Portman's Republican colleagues is the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Sen. Portman, however, struck a cautious tone on that issue, saying that a replacement plan will be phased-in in two to three years' time, but those currently covered will not lose insurance.

"You're not pulling the rug out from under people," he said.

Asked about the economic impact of repealing the ACA, Sen. Portman said it could pay dividends.

Because of the differentiation between large and small business, he said, some on the smaller side have been reluctant to expand because of the potential impacts. Employers have also cut back hours for employees in some cases to avoid providing health care coverage.

He also said the healthcare law contains 19 taxes, many of which are passed on to consumers.

"I think if it's done right it's kind of the opposite," Sen. Portman said of a negative economic impact of repealing the ACA.

State Assessment Finds Medicaid Expansion Boosted Health Outcomes, Ability Of Participants To Find Work

The 702,000 Ohioans served at one point last year by the expansion of the state's Medicaid system reported better health outcomes and access to care and fewer emergency room visits, according to an assessment released by the state.

Medicaid expansion not only showed improved health outcomes, the report indicated, but increased the ability of enrollees to look for and obtain work by alleviating much of the burden of medical bills and debt.

The end-of-year report by the Department of Medicaid to the General Assembly, required by the biennial budget (HB 64), included a telephone survey of more than 7,500 enrollees, biometric screenings of some respondents and a review of medical records of some respondents to gather a picture of the health of the population.

In May 2016, when the survey was conducted, there were 702,000 people enrolled under the expansion, or Group VIII population.

The survey found:

- 43.3% of participants reported fewer unmet health needs since enrolling, while only 8.3% saw an increase.
- 47.7% said their overall health had improved since participating in Medicaid, compared to 3.5% who said it worsened.
- 27% were diagnosed with at least one chronic health condition after joining Medicaid.

- 44% reported better access to mental health services.
- 74.8% of expansion participants were unemployed but looking for work, but said enrollment made it easier for them to seek employment, while 52.1% of those who were already employed said the program made it easier for them to keep working.
- 58.6% of enrollees said it was easier for them to buy food, 48.1% said it was easier to pay their rent or mortgage, 43.6% said it was easier to pay off other debts, and while 55.8% had medical debt before enrollment, only 30.8% had debt at the time of the study.

Loren Anthes, public policy fellow at the Center for Community Solutions, said the report showed that the impact of Medicaid expansion hasn't just been on the health of Ohioans.

"The data suggests that Medicaid, the way the governor designed it specifically, is more like a job support program, and it decreased the influence of social factors like housing and food on keeping people from seeking and keeping meaningful employment," he said in an interview.

The report reinforced the idea that expanding access to health care relieves the burden of high health costs on people who are struggling economically, he said. Rural areas of the state have been particularly boosted by the program's expansion, and not just because a significant percentage of residents have more access to care.

Many of the state's smaller towns and cities, particularly with the decline of manufacturing, are relying more and more on their health care infrastructure as an economic engine, he said, and the expansion of Medicaid has helped.

"Cuyahoga County might not be as affected by Medicaid as, say, Scioto County," he said.

Medicaid expansion is a program showing good return on investment, Mr. Anthes wrote in a blog post about the report.

Mr. Anthes said the assessment points to the importance of mental and behavioral health services for the Medicaid population, something the Kasich administration has stressed through its behavioral health redesign. Increasing access to mental health services could improve the ability of people who need them to find work, he said.

"If the state of Ohio's worried about folks being on Medicaid too long or that it causes people to not seek out work, but then the data suggests that more than half of people who are unemployed have some sort of mental health issue, then that becomes a different issue altogether," he said.

Steve Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio, also praised the report, saying the expansion improved health outcomes very quickly.

"702,000 people, most of whom previously had no insurance, are able to receive regular medical care, manage their chronic health conditions, and avoid using the emergency room," he said in an email. "They are better able to keep or seek employment, allowing them to meet their basic needs and helping Ohio build a healthy workforce. Enrollees have less medical debt, meaning fewer families are burdened by bills they can't pay and hospitals have lower uncompensated care costs."

"As Congress discusses the future of health care in our country, it's important to ensure that everyone has access to the care they need to stay healthy. Federal funding for Medicaid must be maintained so that the gains we've seen don't go away and we can continue to build a healthy Ohio," he added.

Greg Lawson, statehouse liaison for the Buckeye Institute, said the survey results don't necessarily point to clear success or signs that the program was worth the investment.

"It's not surprising that one of the big touted talking points is the amount that people feel better about their financial situation," he said in an interview. "You really don't even need a survey to say that people are going to feel better that they get something for free."

Mr. Lawson called for more research on the program's efficiency needs to be done, saying the state and federal government should work on ensuring people in the program remain tied to the labor force. That could happen through the work of the General Assembly or the federal government under the coming Trump administration.

The response rates for later steps of the survey, such as the biometric screening and the health records examination, might skew the results more toward feelings that concrete results, he said.

"It's only one piece of a puzzle, and we need more pieces," he said.

Wendy Patton, senior project director at Policy Matters Ohio, praised the report as a sign of progress in the state's health.

"The Kasich Administration did a remarkable and thorough job of assessing the impact of Medicaid expansion," she said in an email.

She noted the findings that enrollees reported improved access to care and decreased need for emergency room care, as well as a rise in use of a regular source of health care. The diagnosis of chronic conditions and concerns like anxiety and depression led to improved care for these conditions, she said.

"Ultimately, the assessment found enrollees feeling better and financially more stable and secure," she said. "These are exactly the pre-conditions we need to see for a happier, healthier, more productive life. So the report is good, thorough, and bears good news."

Ohio Receives Average Marks On Annual Education Report Card

Ohio has received a C under a longtime grading system that measures how well states are educating students and how much they spend on schools.

Education Week's 21st annual Quality Counts report, which was released Wednesday, gives the state an overall score of 74.2 - the same as the national average.

The score places Ohio in the middle of the bunch, coming in 22 out of 50 states and the District of Columbus on the grading list. That's one spot ahead of where it fell last year.

Massachusetts remained at the top of the scale this year, earning a B, while Nevada once again had the lowest score in the country and received a D.

The report also grades states and the country as a whole in three categories: Chance for success, school finance and K-12 achievement.

Ohio also maintained grades in the C range in those categories, but was able to earn a plus in chance for success, which measures the role of education in a person's life from "cradle to career," according to Education Week.

However, it once again received to a minus grade for K-12 achievement that is based on graduation rates, student performance on national tests and proficiency comparisons between poor and non-poor students.

The state's spending on education in 2014, which came in at \$12,208 for per pupil expenditures and state share, is in the middle of the range as well.

Subcategory scores have been consistent over the years, but the state's overall ranking has shifted significantly, from fifth in 2010 to 26th in 2014 and to the current 22nd spot.

Chad Aldis, vice president for Ohio policy and advocacy at the Fordham Institute attributed the fluctuation in rankings to a change in the annual report card's composition. It previously eliminated a standards, assessments, and accountability category for which Ohio received an A.

"It's important to look at the nuanced data provided by Education Week's annual report cards, rather than resort to an oversimplified narrative that Ohio is much worse off educationally because of its relative changes in rankings," he said in a statement.

"That being said, Ohio still faces challenges in overcoming a significant poverty-based achievement gap and lower-than-average adult educational attainment," he continued. "At a time when Ohio policy makers debate graduation standards, cut scores, and the next wave of report cards under ESSA, it's critical that we continue to have high expectations for all Ohio students."

The report also highlights steps states are taking to implement new federal education laws under the Every Child Succeeds Act. They are currently set to go into effect in the

2017-18 school year, but have an uncertain future under the new presidential administration.

Capitol Scene: Jones Named Director Of Groundwork Ohio

Warren County Commissioner Shannon Jones was named Wednesday to lead Groundwork Ohio, a nonprofit group focused on early childhood care and education.

The former lawmaker, who resigned from the Senate in mid-term last month and previously served in the House, has been focused on infant mortality and other early childhood issues during her tenure as a state official.

"Shannon joins Groundwork with an impressive background in policy and legislative advocacy," Groundwork Ohio Co-Chair Robyn Lightcap said in a release. "As a former member of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives, she has extensive bipartisan relationships and legislative know-how that will serve the organization well."

"Shannon's passion for and knowledge of early childhood issues makes her well-suited to lead Groundwork as we refine our policy agenda and create a vision for Ohio's youngest children," added Groundwork Co-Chair Stephanie Byrd. "We are confident that she will take our advocacy to the next level."

Ms. Jones said she is excited about "working on behalf of Ohio's youngest children."

"As a former legislator, I know that Ohio's economic success is dependent on quality investments in early education," she said. "Groundwork's Steering Committee is filled with highly respected professionals committed to kids' success. I'm looking forward to working with them to secure Ohio's future."

Groundwork Ohio, formed in 2004, said it believes "quality early learning and development is the most transformative strategy to improve school outcomes, increase the life-long success of Ohio's children, and lay a strong foundation for economic prosperity in our state."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, January 12

Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board, Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health, Meeting Room A, 13430 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington, 9 a.m.

Friday, January 13

Radiation Advisory Council, 35 East Chestnut Street, Basement, Training Room A, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, January 31

Healthy Food for Ohio Statehouse lunch briefing, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, January 5

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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From: Rep07
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2017 3:14 PM
To: 'cstrefny@gmail.com'; Trefny, Charles
Subject: FW: OPHA - This Week's Notes 1/6/17
Attachments: 1-6-17_This_Week's_Notes.pdf

From: Lois Hall [mailto:ohiopha@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 1:28 PM
To: ohiopha@gmail.com
Subject: OPHA - This Week's Notes 1/6/17

1/6/17

Happy New Year Colleagues!

Welcome to the beginning of the 132nd Ohio General Assembly! You'll have much to do – much to decide and perhaps much to learn about a wide variety of topics. In order to help you with learning about Public Health, we'd like to share our weekly newsletters with you and your staff. I hope you'll both enjoy and benefit from them.

We are the Ohio Public Health Association -OPHA- a statewide non-profit, professional association for those who work in, train in, or care about Public Health. We are a membership-based organization with over 600 members representing thousands of Public Health professionals and students. And – we are the Ohio affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

We are a non-partisan organization whose first priority is the health and wellbeing of Ohioans – all Ohioans. This includes their physical, mental, emotional and environmental health and to us... that means just about anything involves or contributes to our health – as individuals and as a state.

So – each week I hope you'll read our newsletter – take note of topics that are important to Ohioans' health, note the funding opportunities we share and encourage those in your districts to consider applying for these funds, and finally, look at all the webinars, conferences and other opportunities to learn more about Public Health and how policy interfaces with Public Health. You might want to consider attending some of them.

I welcome your thoughts, comments and calls. If you have information you'd like to share with Ohio's Public Health professionals, I'd be glad to help you get your word out to them as well. I hope you'll find something of interest in each week's "notes."

In This Week's Notes you'll find:

- . info on an important report to the Ohio legislature on the benefit of Medicaid expansion – very interesting... please read!
- . info on how to donate to APHA and OPHA by donating a used vehicle... who knew?
- . update information from the HPIO on a variety of topics
- . Start with Hello – a way to reduce social isolation in grades 2 – 12
- . how to participate in the 2017 walking challenge for National Public Health Week
- . info on the CDC's Public Health Associate Program
- . several funding opportunities with upcoming due dates
- . several webinar and conference announcements – webinars on the future of Health Care Access; community involvement; the release of the 2017 HPIO Health Value Dashboard; a Health IT Summit in Cleveland... and MORE!

Wow what a busy first week of the new year it's been for me... for OPHA ... for Public Health! And if you watch the state and national news – it's a busy week in both Ohio and Washington, DC, with the state's biennial budget and the future of the ACA taking front and center.

We have a busy year ahead of us on all levels – from personal to national to global – so hang on folks... eat your vegetables, drink plenty of water and by all means... get some rest!

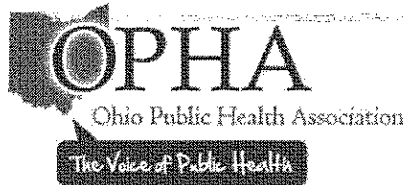
The Public Health "infrastructure" in Ohio wouldn't be the same without each of you – you're not just a part of our OPHA Public Health team... but of the team that works right in your own community! You are a valuable resource as we begin this new year!

For now – for the future – for Public Health!

Lois Hall, MS

Executive Director, Ohio Public Health Association

ohiopa@gmail.com; o) 614-635-0207; c) 614-620-3664



This Week's Notes – 1/6/17

The Mission of the OPHA is to be an inclusive voice for Public Health and to ensure the optimal health of all Ohioans.

From the Office of Health Transformation - Assessment Concludes Medicaid Coverage Supports Work

Ohioans who became eligible for health care coverage through the state's recent Medicaid expansion reported that it was easier for them to keep or find work, and most reported better health and financial security as a result of obtaining coverage. The Ohio Medicaid Department shared these findings with the Ohio General Assembly in a report published December 31. Other findings from the report include:

- a large decline in the uninsured rate for low-income adults to the lowest rate ever recorded;
- most enrollees (89 percent) were uninsured prior to obtaining Medicaid coverage;
- improved access to care was associated with a reduction in unmet medical needs;
- high-cost emergency department use decreased;
- many detected previously unknown or unaddressed chronic health conditions;
- health status improved for most (48 percent) and worsened for very few (4 percent);
- many enrollees (32 percent) screened positive for depression or anxiety disorders;
- many enrollees reported it was now easier to buy food and pay rent; and
- the percentage of enrollees with medical debt fell by nearly half.

The Ohio Medicaid Assessment is one of the nation's most comprehensive reviews of a state's Medicaid expansion population (called Group VIII for the section of federal code that expanded the program). At the request of the Ohio General Assembly, Ohio Medicaid commissioned the assessment, which was then independently developed and carried out by a partnership of the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, The Ohio State University College of Public Health, Ohio University, and RTI International.

[Read the Assessment](#)

APHA Car Donation Program

You can also support APHA and OPHA with a vehicle donation. The APHA vehicle donation program accepts all cars, trucks, motor cycles and RVs, regardless of the condition of the vehicles. It is fast, easy and no cost to the donor. More information on this program will be available in the near future. If you're ready to donate a vehicle today, please have your title in hand and call Ron Farrin at 301-856-6340 or rfarrin@melwood.org.

News from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio – 12/22/16 update

Study: Asking patients about social needs leads to health improvement

New research shows that when primary care patients get help attaining basic resources — like food, housing, heat and access to affordable medicines — it leads to improvements in their blood pressure and cholesterol levels (Source: "Health Innovator: Patients Who Are Asked About Food, Heat See Medical Benefits," WBUR radio (Boston), Dec. 12, 2016).

The findings, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, were based on analysis of Health Leads, a Boston-based nonprofit founded 20 years ago by a Harvard undergraduate.

While the study results may be intuitive, they provide further evidence that Health Leads is on the right track by focusing on patients' "unmet social needs" as a critical pathway toward true health.

In January, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center designated \$157 million for a pilot project, part of the "Accountable Health Communities" model, to test whether screening patients and then addressing social needs could improve their health, while also saving money and reducing utilization. When the program is fully implemented, more than 15 million patients will be undergoing this type of social needs screening.

Studies link social isolation, health problems

Researchers are finding that social isolation is a growing epidemic — one that's increasingly recognized as having dire physical, mental and emotional consequences (Source: "How Social Isolation Is Killing Us," New York Times, Dec. 22, 2016).

Since the 1980s, the percentage of American adults who say they're lonely has doubled from 20 percent to 40 percent. And a wave of new research suggests social separation is bad for us. Individuals with less social connection have disrupted sleep patterns, altered immune systems, more inflammation and higher levels of stress hormones. One recent study found that isolation increases the risk of heart disease by 29 percent and stroke by 32 percent.

Another analysis that pooled data from 70 studies and 3.4 million people found that socially isolated individuals had a 30 percent higher risk of dying in the next seven years, and that this effect was largest in middle age.

Start With Hello Week, February 6 – 10 – from Sandy Hook Promise

Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible. It is a growing epidemic in the United States and within our schools. Excessive feelings of isolation can be associated with violent and suicidal behavior. In fact, one study reports that chronic loneliness increases our risk of an early death by 14%. Furthermore, young people who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence and/or depression. As a result, many further pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others.

Start with Hello teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization.

During the week of February 6-10, schools and youth organizations from across the country are encouraged to participate in *Start With Hello Week*. *Start With Hello Week* raises awareness and educates students and the community through *Start With Hello* trainings, advertising, activities, public proclamations, media events, contests and awards. *Start With Hello Week* brings attention to the growing epidemic of social isolation in our schools and communities and empowers young people to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization.

Start With Hello is a no-cost and easy to implement program that is available to all schools and youth organizations serving youth grades 2 - 12. In addition to young people, *Start With Hello* will benefit educators, administrators, community-based organization leaders and parents.

To sign up your school or youth organization to participate in *Start With Hello Week*, February 6 - 10, please visit: <http://www.sandyhookpromise.org/startwithhelloweek>.

Start With Hello Week is an initiative of Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit organization led by several family members who lost loved ones at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on December 14, 2012. Based in Newtown, Connecticut, SHP's mission is to prevent gun violence BEFORE it happens by teaching youth and adults how to recognize the signs, intervene and get help for individuals who may be at-risk of hurting themselves or others. For more information on Sandy Hook Promise, please visit: www.sandyhookpromise.org

By building a culture of inclusion and connectedness, schools and communities can better support their young people and reduce their risk of bullying, violence and depression.

Walking for Public Health Week – 2017!

Walking is the easiest way to improve health — and we need your help to get people to take 1 billion steps by National Public Health Week.

Hold your own walking challenge - Keep it small or go big — we make it easy for you to get people moving. It's simple to start a team with a group of friends or hold a contest with co-workers. If you want to go big, we can help you promote a walking event to your entire community. We provide the technology platform, we count the steps and we even give you sample promotional materials you can customize and use to recruit participants. If you are already planning a step challenge using another platform, we can count your activity toward our goal of 1 Billion steps as well. It's easy, so [join the challenge today!](#)

- Walk from Jan. 9 – April 9, or pick a time period in between for your challenge.
- Join APHA's team, someone else's team or start your own team.
- We track the total steps, steps for each team and steps for each person.
- You can synch your step counting device or enter steps manually.

Get recognized during National Public Health Week - During National Public Health Week, APHA will announce the grand total of challenge steps we've taken. We will also recognize the top performing teams — make sure you are one of them! [Learn more about teams](#)

CDC's Public Health Associate Program

CDC Public Health Associate Program will soon be accepting applications. Associates [can help enhance QI](#) at their host organizations. Please see more information about the program below.

The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) will be accepting host site applications on January 3-19, 2017 for organizations to host an associate starting in October 2017.

PHAP is a two year, on-the-job training program with the mission to train and provide experiential learning to early-career public health professionals. PHAP is a great opportunity for organizations to build internal workforce capacity and have an impact on developing the skills of the future public health workforce. Associates' salaries and benefits are paid by CDC. The work of the associates is expected to provide value-added public health services to help the host organization meet their program goals and objectives.

PHAP developed a two-part technical assistance webinar series to provide an overview of PHAP and more detailed technical assistance for organizations interested in applying to host an associate.

[PHAP 101: Overview of PHAP-Does My Site Want to Host an Associate?](#)

[PHAP 201: Strategic Development of a Quality PHAP Training Experience-the CO-STARR Model](#)

Please email questions to phap@cdc.gov.

Did you know you can post a job opening – or search open positions – on the OPHA website at www.ohiophya.org? Or go directly to <http://ohiophya.org/job-mart/> Approximately 20-30 positions listed at all times.

American Planning Association – Funding Opportunities

Complete Streets Consortium Series

Deadline extended for applications for free standard technical assistance workshops – including the brand new Complete Streets Consortium Series! If your community is interested in implementing Complete Streets but needs help making it happen, consider partnering with two other communities for this free opportunity. **Applications are due Thursday, February 2, 2017.**

The BUILD Health Challenge has an open RFP:

The BUILD Health Challenge awards are designed to support the advancement of community collaborations that are ready to put their bold, upstream, integrated, local, data-driven plans into action: <http://buildhealthchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BUILD-Call-for-Applications.pdf>

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Under this RFP, EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each. The goal of this emphasis is to encourage and increase project performance in even more states and communities. Local environmental and public health issues can be found in every state and territory, and this reality should be reflected in the projects that are awarded. **The application deadline is Monday, January 31, 2017 at 11:59pm EST.**

Shop online at Amazon Smile; they donate to OPHA – go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0671645>.

Shared Services Grants Available for Public Health Agencies –

The Center for Sharing Public Health Services is offering up to five small grants to organizations that wish to explore, plan, implement or improve some aspects of cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) in public health. This opportunity is available for 1) public health agencies, 2) organizations representing policymakers with the authority to enter into CJS agreements, or 3) their designated agents. Proposals must fall into one of two categories: 1) proposals focused on the implementation of a specific CJS arrangement among multiple jurisdictions, or 2) proposals that are not linked to a specific CJS arrangement but otherwise contribute to the achievement of the Center's goals, which are described further in the call for proposals.

Eligible applicants focused on the implementation of a specific CJS arrangement must include a minimum of three jurisdictions of any size, or two jurisdictions if the combined population is 50,000 or greater. The jurisdictional size limit does not apply if the arrangement: 1) includes at least one tribe, 2) includes a state health department, or 3) is between two frontier counties.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis from January 2 until March 31, 2017, or until all five small grants are awarded, whichever comes first. Awards will be up to \$10,000 for a project period of up to six months. Exceptions to these limits can be made for special cases involving proposals that are not

linked to a specific CJS arrangement. See the call for proposals for more information.

Priority for funding will be given to proposals that address the specific areas of learning described in the call for proposals. Center staff will provide technical assistance as requested, and selected teams are expected to share the results and lessons learned from their projects with appropriate audiences.

Support for this program is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

For more information and to apply, [visit our website](#).

Since 2012, the Center for Sharing Public Health Services has served as a national resource on cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS), building the evidence and producing and disseminating tools, methods and models to assist public health agencies and policymakers as they consider and adopt CJS approaches.

The Center for Sharing Public Health Services is a national initiative managed by the [Kansas Health Institute](#) with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).

Ohio EPA is Now Accepting Proposals for Recycling & Litter Prevention Grants

Ohio EPA is now accepting applications for four types of recycling related grants to be awarded in 2017. **Grant applications for all four programs are due February 3, 2017**

Through its Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant program, Ohio EPA administers four grants that support statewide source reduction, recycling, market development, litter prevention and scrap tire recycling efforts. The four grant programs are:

Community Development Grant. This funding allows Ohio communities to support and expand community recycling and litter prevention efforts.

Litter Management Grant. This program provides funding to Ohio communities and nonprofit organizations to support litter and tire amnesty collection projects.

Market Development Grant. These funds are offered to Ohio businesses and nonprofit organizations to purchase equipment and build infrastructure towards developing successful markets for recyclable materials and related products.

Scrap Tire Grant. This program provides financial assistance to Ohio's local government entities, businesses and non-profit organizations to modify manufacturing operations to accept scrap tire material, expand tire processing operations, or use scrap tire material in civil engineering projects or manufactured products.

Grant recipients will be announced in April 2017 and funding will be made available in July 2017. Additional information can be found at www.recycleohio.gov or by contacting Chet Chaney, Environmental Supervisor, Ohio EPA at chet.chaney@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 728-0043, or by contacting Marie Barnett, Grants Administrator, Ohio EPA at marie.barnett@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 705-1019.

Environmental Education Grants, Captain Planet Foundation

Details at captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants

Funding range: \$500 to \$2,500

Applications due by January 31, 2017

The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to give the next generation of environmental stewards an active understanding and love for the natural world in which they live. The Captain Planet Foundation primarily makes grants to U.S.-based schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. Grants are made for

activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation and MUST have all four of the following to be considered for funding: 1) Be project-based; 2) Projects must be performed by youth; 3) Projects must have real environmental outcomes; 4) Be based in the United States.

Grants from the Captain Planet Foundation are intended to: 1) Provide hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities for youth; 2) Serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools; 3) Inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities.

OPHA has reached nearly 700 friends on our FaceBook Page! If you haven't friended or liked us yet – this is the time!!! Look for Ohio Public Health Association on FB or click the link below. We love new friends – and we'd love to have you join us!

Infant Mortality Grant Opportunity -

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health announces the availability of three 2018-2019 Request for Proposals (RFP): the **Infant Mortality Replication/Expansion Grant, Demonstration Grant, and the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Grant RFP**. All three RFP's, to include grant requirements and technical assistance information, will be available on our website, www.mih.ohio.gov, on **Monday, December 12, 2016**. You may also contact: Ohio Commission on Minority Health, 77 South High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, or call 614-466-4000. **The deadline for submission for all RFP's is 5:00pm on Monday, January 23, 2017.**

Advocates for Ohio's Future – Webinar on the future of Health Care Access in Ohio

Since its expansion in 2014, Ohio's Medicaid program has played a critical role in cutting the number of uninsured Ohioans almost in half. With talk of repealing the Affordable Care Act at the federal level, what are the implications on Ohio's budget process? Join Advocates for Ohio's Future for a webinar on the importance of comprehensive health care and the impact not maintaining this coverage will have on low-income Ohioans.

Register for our webinar Thursday, January 12 from 3-4:00 p.m. to discuss the benefits of expanded health care access and what challenges lie ahead. The webinar will cover:

- An overview of Ohio's Medicaid program
- Update on enrollment and health care access in Ohio
- What's next for the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid
- Implications for the upcoming state budget
- Impact changes will have on coverage for kids

- How you can advocate for health care in the coming months

Guest speakers will include:

- Loren Anthes, Public Policy Fellow, Medicaid Policy Center, The Center for Community Solutions
- Wendy Patton, Senior Project Director, Policy Matters Ohio
- Brandi Slaughter, Chief Executive Officer, Voices for Ohio's Children

Register now for The Future of Medicaid and Health Care Access in Ohio and we'll see you January 12!

RSVP for Community Meetings on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) - tell us what you think and learn what's next.

Change is coming to health care in 2017. You need to know what's happening with your health care, and we want to hear about why health care is important to you. That's why the Universal HealthCare Access Network of Ohio – UHCAN Ohio – is hosting community meetings across Ohio next month for anyone who has questions about what's next for health care or who can share their experience with health care, good or bad.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

If anyone you know has questions about what's going to happen to health care in 2017, please share this information. If you're part of an organization that works with people who benefit from the Affordable Care Act or expanded Medicaid, please share this information. [Click here](#) for a flyer that you can print or share.

Community Meeting Dates

Athens - Thursday, January 12, 2:00-4:00; Athens Public Library; 30 Home St, Athens, OH 45701

Jackson - Thursday, January 12, 10:00 - 12:00; Presbyterian Church, 225 Church St.

Toledo - Saturday, January 14, 2:30 - 4:30; Location TBA

Fremont - Saturday, January 14, 10:00-12:00; Birchard Public Library, 423 Croghan St, Fremont, OH 43420

Cleveland - Saturday, January 14, 3:00 - 5:00; Cleveland Public Library - Lorain Branch, 8216 Lorain Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

Akron - Saturday, January 14, 10:00 - 12:00; Location TBA

Cincinnati - Saturday, January 14, 10:00 - 12:00; Location TBA

Batavia - Saturday, January 14, 2:00 - 4:00; Location TBA

Lancaster - Saturday, January 14, 2:00 - 4:00; Location TBA

Columbus - Saturday, January 14, 9:30 - 11:00; Columbus Public Library, Parsons Branch 1113 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206

Plan4Health Webinar Series

The [Plan4Health project](#) is a collaboration between the American Planning Association and APHA. It represents significant cross-sector support for policy, systems, and environment changes, as well as an opportunity to build leadership among our members.

Join us for the first webinar of a three part series for the American Public Health Association and its Affiliates' members about the Plan4Health Initiative, and the importance of planning and public health to create the healthiest nation. During the first webinar, presenters will discuss coalition building and how it was instrumental in the important PSE work conducted in the field. In March, the focus is on physical activity PSEs implemented in communities and our last webinar will center around nutrition. Each webinar will consist of presentations by two coalitions with an expert from the field moderating the session.

Topic: Coalition building; **Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2017; **Time:** 2- 3:00 pm ET; Please RSVP [here!](#)

Topic: Physical activity; **Date:** Thursday, March 9, 2017; **Time:** 3- 4:-00 pm ET

Topic: Nutrition; **Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017; **Time:** 2- 3:00 pm ET

We hope that you can participate and learn more about this exciting project. Webinar details will be forwarded soon.

For more information, contact Melissa.mcneilly@apha.org.

The state of Ohio's health: 2017 Health Value Dashboard release



When

Wednesday March 1, 2017 from
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM EST

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

OCLC Conference Center –
Lakeside Building
6600 Kilgour Place
Dublin, OH 43017

Join HPIO for our first forum of 2017! It will be held Wednesday, March 1 at OCLC Conference Center.

With the release of the 2017 Dashboard, this forum will look at how Ohio's health status has changed and where challenges and opportunities for policy interventions still exist.

In December 2014, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio released the first Health Value Dashboard, which found that Ohio ranked 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia on health value, a composite measure of healthcare costs and population health. Since then, initiatives across the state have looked at how we can get better value for our healthcare dollar.

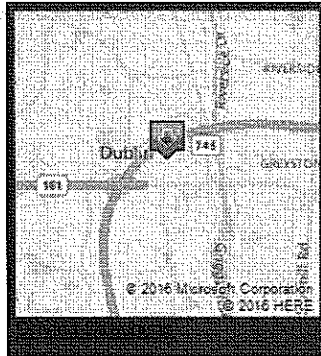
Speakers will be announced in early 2017. Look out for updates!

[Register Now!](#)

[I can't make it](#)

HPIO has a limited number of PARTIAL scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you feel that you are unable to defray the cost of admission, please contact Hailey Akah at hakah@hpio.net.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made in writing to



Hailey Akah at hakah@hpia.net. The last day to cancel registration for a full refund is one week prior to the event (Feb. 22, 2017). A cancellation fee of \$15 will be deducted from your refund for all cancellations received after Feb. 22. If you do not send us notification of cancellation prior to the event on March 1, you will be required to remit the full amount of the registration fee. Those who do not remit payment will be required to pay in advance for any future events.

Hold the Date for 6th Annual Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit

March 11th 2017 8AM-4PM. Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, Dayton Ohio
 Our Summit builds access to nature for our children making them happier, healthier and smarter. Highlights will include Keynotes, Networking, Resource Displays and morning workshops. CHES credits being investigated. More details to come and you can also follow our events at <https://www.facebook.com/get.out.in.nature>.

Health IT Summit! Cleveland

Save the data – March 23-24, 2017

Link for Cleveland Health IT Summit:
<https://vendome.swoogo.com/cleveland-hit-summit/home>

Link for Agenda: <https://vendome.swoogo.com/cleveland-hit-summit/agenda>

APHA Launches National Public Health Week 2017

APHA is excited to announce the launch of National Public Health Week 2017! This year's campaign will take place April 3-9, 2017 and is themed "Healthiest Nation 2030." Visit the website to [view this year's brochure and sign up for updates](#). And be sure to [follow us on Twitter](#) for the latest news. As part of this year's campaign, APHA will once again be leading a challenge to encourage communities to get physically active. Join us in celebrating public health as we work to make the U.S. the healthiest nation in one generation.

OPHA Appreciates Your Support!
Why wait till the end of the year to make your
Tax deductible donation??? Do it now – make a
New Year's resolution to Donate to OPHA today!
www.ohiophia.org

Save the Date!
OPHA Public Policy Institute –
The Relationship Between Education and Health – the
Policy Implications that Impact Health
April 19, 2017
State Library, Columbus
Watch for details to come!

Save the Date!
Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement Spring
2017 Open Forum for QI in Public Health
April 20-21, 2017 | New Orleans, Louisiana

The Open Forum is a unique opportunity to learn from leaders in the field of quality improvement for public health and network with your peers. Join us **April 20-21, 2017 in New Orleans** for the next Open Forum for QI. Registration will launch in mid-December 2016.

The National Environmental Health Association Presents the
81st Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition



Call for Abstracts is Now Open

The 2017, the NEHA AEC will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, July 10–13.

This is your opportunity to become a leader in your field by imparting your knowledge and experience on the environmental health community.

We are seeking abstracts that bring the latest advances in environmental health, as well as unique responses to environmental health and protection problems. Practical applications in both the public and private sectors should be emphasized along with the latest in proven emerging technologies.

As always, we welcome abstracts in the full range of environmental health topics that we traditionally offer at the AEC!

To submit your abstract, please review the [AEC Abstract Submission Guidelines](#) and visit our website: neha.org/aec/call-abstracts. **NEHA 2017 AEC will be in Grand Rapids, July 10-13.**

2017 APHA Annual Meeting Call For Abstracts Opens Dec. 19

Meeting Date is Nov 4 – 8, Atlanta

The theme of the meeting is "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health." Individuals interested in presenting can submit an abstract online starting Dec. 19. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Feb. 21-24, with the date varying depending on the Section, SPIG, Caucus or Forum to which you wish to submit.

You do not have to be an APHA member to submit an abstract. However, if your abstract is accepted for presentation, the presenting author **MUST** become an APHA individual member and **MUST** register for the Annual Meeting by the September pre-registration deadline. Keep an eye on <http://apha.org/AnnualMeeting> for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS: See the full Calendar of events at <http://ohiophia.org/event-calendars/>

March 23-24, 2017 – Health IT Summit - Cleveland
April 19, 2017 – OPHA Public Policy Institute – State Library - Columbus
April 20-21, 2017 – Quality Improvement Open Forum – New Orleans, LA
May 15-17, 2017 – Public Health Combined Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Columbus/Worthington
July 10-13, 2017 – NEHA – Grand Rapids, MI
July 11-13, 2017 NACCHO – Pittsburgh, PA
Nov 4-8, 2017 – APHA – Atlanta, GA

Send comments or questions about This Week's Notes or anything OPHA to ohiophia@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

OPHA on Facebook

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/9/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/9/2017



OHIO LAW NOW PREVENTS BANKS FROM USING PLYWOOD ON VACANT, ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Ohio is the first state to prevent banks from using plywood on properties vacant and abandoned properties in foreclosure.



OHIOANS WOULD BE AFFECTED IN MANY WAYS BY STATE BUDGET BELT-TIGHTENING

After several years of budget stability, Ohio's finances are expected to be strained this year amid predictions of recession economics and tight spending.

OHIO'S TAX REVENUE FALLS SHORT OF ESTIMATE AGAIN IN DECEMBER

The latest report on state tax revenue is another sobering reminder that, despite Ohio's relatively low unemployment rate and a few other positive indicators, the overall economy has struggles.

'PUTIN-LIKE RULE'? GOP LAWMAKER, KASICH CLASH OVER HEALTH-CARE TRANSPARENCY LAW

Accusing Gov. John Kasich of "engaging in Putin-like rule" to overturn a state law on health-care price transparency, the law's sponsor wants the attorney general to hire outside counsel to defend the state against an industry lawsuit.

CAPITOL INSIDER: MATT BORGES, HAVING LOST OHIO GOP POST, STILL PAYING BACK TAXES

It's pretty easy for a winning candidate to talk to us snarly journalists.

EDITORIAL: LAWMAKERS SHOULD REFORM REDISTRICTING

The new Ohio Senate president has gotten off to an inauspicious start, signaling that he sees no need for the legislature to change the way congressional district maps are drawn — currently by the party in power, and by zigzagging boundaries through and around

communities to pack districts with friendly voters and scatter the opposition, diluting their franchise.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

BEYOND RTA NEGOTIATIONS, GOP AND DEMOCRATS AT ODDS OVER FUTURE STRIKES

As Greater Dayton RTA management and union officials entered negotiations Sunday, local and state Republicans expressed a desire to ensure transit workers cannot threaten to walk off the job again, while Democrats said they believe strikes are a necessary last resort.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO COMMUNITIES, COUNTIES HAVE NEARLY \$1.2B LESS IN AID FOR 2017 BECAUSE OF STATE CUTS

Cuts in local government funds and tax changes made at the state level will cost Ohio counties and communities nearly \$1.2 billion in 2017, as compared to 2010, a new report shows.

STATE SCHOOL BOARD SHIFTS MORE REPUBLICAN AS OPPOSITION VOICE LESSENS

The state school board has moved further to the political right as it starts 2017 with key decisions on charter schools, testing and graduation requirements on the horizon.

DONALD TRUMP GETS HIS WAY AT OHIO GOP. NOW THE PRESSURE IS ON JANE TIMKEN: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP

Closing the book on Matt Borges: Lost in all of the schadenfreude surrounding President-elect Donald Trump's coup at the Ohio Republican Party is how successful the deposed chairman was.

CONSTITUTIONALLY QUESTIONABLE SLAP AT MEDINA AND PORTAGE COUNTIES, OTHER ANTI-FRACKING LOCALITIES, SIGNED INTO OHIO LAW: THOMAS SUDDER

The legislature just made it harder for anyone to use local ballot issues to fight fracking, thanks to a bill rammed through the legislature, House Bill 463, which Gov. John Kasich signed Wednesday.

THE ENQUIRER

TRUMP'S PICK, NOT KASICH'S, NAMED CHAIR OF OHIO GOP

The Ohio GOP is no longer John Kasich's party.

WILL KASICH GUM UP GOP EFFORTS TO UNRAVEL OBAMACARE?

Ohio's Republican governor John Kasich and Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown huddled in Columbus last month, and their conversation immediately turned to one of the hottest topics in Washington: the GOP push to "repeal and replace" Obamacare.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

CITY OF TOLEDO BACKS DAYTON IN TRAFFIC-CAMERA CASE

Toledo has come to the defense of Dayton's automated traffic cameras, knowing the fate of its own cameras will be at stake when Dayton goes before the Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday.

STATE TAX RECEIPTS BELOW PROJECTIONS

The pace of Ohio's fading tax collections slowed in December, but overall losses continued to mount in the lead-up to Gov. John Kasich's proposal for the state's next budget.

TRUMP-BACKED CHALLENGER TAKES OHIO GOP HELM

After President-elect Donald Trump personally campaigned for her, Jane Timken of Canton defeated incumbent Matthew Borges on Friday to become chairman of the Ohio Republican Party.

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The latest report on state tax revenue is another sobering reminder that, despite Ohio's relatively low unemployment rate and a few other positive indicators, the overall economy has struggles.

'PUTIN-LIKE RULE'? GOP LAWMAKER, KASICH CLASH OVER HEALTH-CARE TRANSPARENCY LAW

Accusing Gov. John Kasich of "engaging in Putin-like rule" to overturn a state law on health-care price transparency, the law's sponsor wants the attorney general to hire outside counsel to defend the state against an industry lawsuit.

CAPITOL INSIDER: MATT BORGES, HAVING LOST OHIO GOP POST, STILL PAYING BACK TAXES

It's pretty easy for a winning candidate to talk to us snarly journalists.

EDITORIAL: LAWMAKERS SHOULD REFORM REDISTRICTING

The new Ohio Senate president has gotten off to an inauspicious start, signaling that he sees no need for the legislature to change the way congressional district maps are drawn —

currently by the party in power, and by zigzagging boundaries through and around communities to pack districts with friendly voters and scatter the opposition, diluting their franchise.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

BEYOND RTA NEGOTIATIONS, GOP AND DEMOCRATS AT ODDS OVER FUTURE STRIKES

As Greater Dayton RTA management and union officials entered negotiations Sunday, local and state Republicans expressed a desire to ensure transit workers cannot threaten to walk off the job again, while Democrats said they believe strikes are a necessary last resort.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO COMMUNITIES, COUNTIES HAVE NEARLY \$1.2B LESS IN AID FOR 2017 BECAUSE OF STATE CUTS

Cuts in local government funds and tax changes made at the state level will cost Ohio counties and communities nearly \$1.2 billion in 2017, as compared to 2010, a new report shows.

STATE SCHOOL BOARD SHIFTS MORE REPUBLICAN AS OPPOSITION VOICE LESSENS

The state school board has moved further to the political right as it starts 2017 with key decisions on charter schools, testing and graduation requirements on the horizon.

DONALD TRUMP GETS HIS WAY AT OHIO GOP. NOW THE PRESSURE IS ON JANE TIMKEN: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP

Closing the book on Matt Borges: Lost in all of the schadenfreude surrounding President-elect Donald Trump's coup at the Ohio Republican Party is how successful the deposed chairman was.

CONSTITUTIONALLY QUESTIONABLE SLAP AT MEDINA AND PORTAGE COUNTIES, OTHER ANTI-FRACKING LOCALITIES, SIGNED INTO OHIO LAW: THOMAS SUDDER

The legislature just made it harder for anyone to use local ballot issues to fight fracking, thanks to a bill rammed through the legislature, House Bill 463, which Gov. John Kasich signed Wednesday.

THE ENQUIRER

TRUMP'S PICK, NOT KASICH'S, NAMED CHAIR OF OHIO GOP

The Ohio GOP is no longer John Kasich's party.

WILL KASICH GUM UP GOP EFFORTS TO UNRAVEL OBAMACARE?

Ohio's Republican governor John Kasich and Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown huddled in Columbus last month, and their conversation immediately turned to one of the hottest topics in Washington: the GOP push to "repeal and replace" Obamacare. —

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

CITY OF TOLEDO BACKS DAYTON IN TRAFFIC-CAMERA CASE

Toledo has come to the defense of Dayton's automated traffic cameras, knowing the fate of its own cameras will be at stake when Dayton goes before the Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday.

STATE TAX RECEIPTS BELOW PROJECTIONS

The pace of Ohio's fading tax collections slowed in December, but overall losses continued to mount in the lead-up to Gov. John Kasich's proposal for the state's next budget.

TRUMP-BACKED CHALLENGER TAKES OHIO GOP HELM

After President-elect Donald Trump personally campaigned for her, Jane Timken of Canton defeated incumbent Matthew Borges on Friday to become chairman of the Ohio Republican Party.

From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 1:43 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 1/2/17 - 1/8/17



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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Westlake, Libby; staff birthdays
Subject: January Column Options



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

To: Republican House Members
From: Majority Communications Office
Re: January Column Options
Date: January 9, 2017

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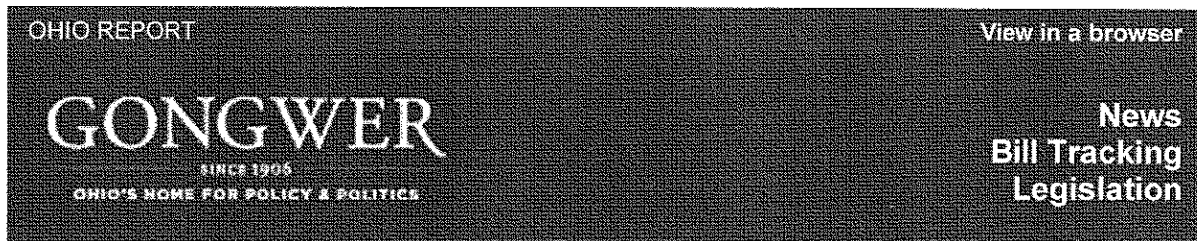
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 6:17 PM
To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Attachments: Jan11.htm; 170111dayplan.htm



OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Kasich: 'Bottom-Up' Approach Needed To Fight Drug, Mental Health Problems

Husted Remains Skeptical Of DHS Designation Of Election Infrastructure

ACA Repeal Could Strip \$3.5B From Ohio Budget, Groups Say

Workgroup Mulls Redefining Dropout Recovery, Prevention Schools For Evaluation Purposes

Mandel Seeks To Win 2018 Senate Race With Help Of 'Grassroots Army'

Report: Health Care Law Repeal Could Result In 220,000 Ohioans Losing Access To Mental Health, Addiction Treatment

State, Local Mental Health Authorities Push Awareness Of Crisis Text Line Service

Ohio Among Top 10 States In Corporate Clean Energy Options, Study Finds

Agency Briefs: Mandel Announces 'Checkbook' Milestone, DeWine Reports On Fraud Cases; ONG; OSHP; ODA

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

Day Planner

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